

## Media Release

Wednesday, 4 June 2008

### VARANUS ISLAND GAS PIPELINE INCIDENT

APPEA today congratulated all involved in the safe "textbook" evacuation overnight of 152 personnel from Varanus Island off the coast of Western Australia after a pipeline rupture incident.

Operated by Apache Energy, Varanus Island is an oil, condensate and gas processing hub for a number of North West Shelf offshore platforms and generates 30 percent of Western Australia's domestic gas supply, with the vast majority of its customers being industrial users.

"Safety of our people is the upstream oil and gas industry's top priority and it is to Apache's great credit that its safety procedures have been implemented so well," APPEA Chief Executive Belinda Robinson said.

"Apache is working with other gas producers, the government and its customers to endeavour to ensure that disruption to gas supply is minimised, however, it is too early to tell how long this situation might last.

"I am aware that the North West Shelf Venture is doing all that it can to assist mitigate the supply disruption by endeavouring to produce more gas.

"It appears at this stage that this outage will not impact on WA household power supply and the industry is pulling out all stops to restore supply.

"The industry also appreciates Alinta's proactive and constructive cooperation with suppliers, customers and pipeline operators to minimise impacts on customers."

**Media contact: Tim Langmead 02 6247 0960 or 0421 584 990**