



AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM PRODUCTION & EXPLORATION
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Media Release – APPEA 2009 Conference & Exhibition

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Editor of *The Australian* Wins Coveted Award

The editor of *The Australian* newspaper, Mr Chris Mitchell has won this year's annual APPEA JN Pierce Award for Media Excellence for coverage of climate change policy – an issue of great relevance to Australia's oil and gas exploration and production industry.

Every year the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association makes an award, the JN Pierce Award, for excellence in journalism. On every occasion this award has been made to a journalist for a piece that the judging panel has considered to best meet the criteria for the award. For the first time the panel has agreed to award it to an editor.

In congratulating Chris Mitchell, APPEA's Chief Executive Belinda Robinson observed that "over the past twelve months *The Australian's* in-depth coverage of a range of public policy issues affecting Australia's upstream oil and gas industry has been of a consistently high standard. The reporting has been thoughtful, balanced, analytical, well researched and a big effort was made to ensure that all facets of the issue were presented."

Several correspondents at *The Australian* including Michael Stutchbury, Lenore Taylor, Matt Chambers, Cath Hart and Matthew Warren, were judged to have significantly contributed to this very high standard of journalism.

The JN Pierce Award for excellence in journalism is named in honour of the late John Pierce - affectionately known as "JN Pierce". He was a leading Australian resources writer who worked for *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Australian Financial Review* prominently in the 1960s and 1970s before his retirement in the early 1990s.

Scrupulously honest in his reporting, JN Pierce was noted for his accuracy, his attention to detail and one who always made that extra call to check the facts.

"The judges specially commended Annabel Hepworth's 'Red tape hurts \$100bn energy projects' report on economic impact of the regulatory burden on our industry, and Ian Townsend's team at the ABC's Background Briefing program 'Banking on Gas'. Both reports were very well researched, insightful and contributed to the public's understanding of the potential of our industry," said Ms Robinson.

The award recognises excellence in journalism with respect to the upstream petroleum industry. It is open to all forms of media – print, television, radio and on-line. The selection criteria include excellence of writing style, accuracy of research, ethics, newsworthiness, flair and creativity, and public benefit.

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The Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association represents the upstream oil and gas industry in Australia. APPEA member companies produce around 98 per cent of Australia's oil and gas.