



14 April 2015

Domestic gas strategy underpinned by science and technology

The Domestic Gas Strategy released by the Australian Government is welcome recognition of the importance of unconventional gas production to the nation's energy mix and economic prosperity.

APPEA Acting Chief Executive Paul Fennelly said: "Unconventional gas, including natural gas from coal seams, accounts for 40 per cent of production in the eastern Australian gas market.

"It also contributes significantly to our export market as Australia remains on track to be the world's biggest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) by the end of the decade."

Mr Fennelly said the government's commitment to provide communities with more information about how industry is regulated, as well as research undertaken by reputable government agencies such as the CSIRO and Geoscience Australia, is a positive step forward.

He said: "Industry will also continue to do more to inform communities about the science and technology that is driving significant investment in rural Australia and underpinning a world-class industry.

"We are already seeing the results of greater community interaction in Queensland where ongoing community consultation has led to a significant understanding of resource operations.

"As the Productivity Commission recently found, scientific evidence shows that the technical challenges and risks posed by gas development can be managed through a well-designed regulatory regime.

"APPEA acknowledges the strong leadership demonstrated by Minister Macfarlane and looks forward to working with the government to ensure Australia continues to benefit from safe and responsible resource production."

The Domestic Gas Strategy is available at <http://www.industry.gov.au/DomesticGasStrategy>

Media contact: Chris Ward 0408 033 422 or cward@appea.com.au