



11 February 2016

New global energy forecast confirms growing role for natural gas in low carbon future

The latest [BP Energy Outlook](#) released overnight highlights the massive opportunity ahead for Australian natural gas exports.

The report predicts natural gas will be the world's fastest growing traditional fuel with consumption increasing by 1.8 per cent a year to 2035.

APPEA Chief Executive Malcolm Roberts said the report confirmed the key role of natural gas in the global energy mix and its growing importance in the low carbon economy of the future.

He said Australia was capitalising on the world's growing appetite for cleaner-burning natural gas and was poised to become the world's leading exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) as new projects entered production in the next few years.

"The projects will generate significant economic benefits for Australia through investment, jobs, increased income and additional taxation revenues over the coming decades," said Dr Roberts.

The *BP Energy Outlook: Transition to a lower carbon future* finds:

- Natural gas will be the fastest growing traditional fuel, increasing 1.8% a year.
- By 2035, natural gas will be the second-largest fuel source, after oil (overtaking coal).
- Oil will grow steadily at 0.9% a year, although its share of the energy mix will continue to decline.

"The oil and gas industry is vital for Australia," Dr Roberts said.

"Natural gas is a safe, clean and reliable energy source for industry and millions of households, and is an irreplaceable feedstock for a range of industrial applications in the plastics and chemicals industries.

"Natural gas is also integral to a low-carbon economy and increasing its use can deliver immediate and substantial carbon savings. Australia's gas industry, domestically and through our LNG exports, contributes substantially to the economic development of the nation and reduces global greenhouse gas emissions."

The report's release follows a visit to Australia by the International Energy Agency's Executive Director, Dr Fatih Birol, who said Australia's investments in LNG production would deliver long-term benefits, noting "*Australia made a very good move to be the champion of LNG around 2020*".

Media Contact: Kieran Murphy – 0408 151 922 – kmurphy@appea.com.au