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## Natural gas set to ease South Australia's cold pain

The constrained capacity of the Heywood Interconnector during prolonged cold weather conditions in South Australia highlights why natural gas must remain a vital part of the state's robust energy mix.

While work to upgrade the interconnector which delivers energy to South Australia's grid continues, the previously moth-balled Pelican Point Power Station will swing into action to help homes and businesses through a freezing winter.

The power station uses a combined-cycle gas turbine operation which can produce 479 MW of electricity. At full capacity, the plant can cater for approximately 25 per cent of South Australia's needs.

APPEA Director South Australia Matthew Doman said power generated using natural gas continues to show its worth by complementing the use of renewables.

"Natural gas turbines can be easily ramped up to meet demand," Mr Doman said.

"This makes gas an excellent natural counterpart for intermittent and variable energy resources such as wind and solar. Natural gas also provides a large degree of flexibility through energy storage.

"Additional power generation to meet load balancing requirements of renewables must continue to come from Australia's reserves of natural gas noting that Australia has one of the largest natural gas reserves in the Asia-Pacific region and South Australia has a large and readily available natural gas supply.

"More broadly across the eastern Australian energy market, restrictions on exploration and natural gas development must be lifted to help deliver a reliable, affordable and secure energy supply every day of the year."

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