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CoAG Energy Council
Via email: energycouncil@industry.gov.au

GAS SUPPLY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – COMMENTS ON THE CONSULTATION PAPER

Dear CoAG Energy Council Officials

The Australian Pipelines & Gas Association (APGA) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the consultation paper for the Gas Supply Strategy Implementation Plan.

APGA supports the Plan's focus on identifying and utilising opportunities for collaboration across jurisdictions and industry. The future success of the onshore gas industry in Australia will require increasing levels of collaboration between government, industry and communities to ensure activities are well understood, appropriately regulated and accepted.

APGA acknowledges the expected outcomes from the Gas Supply Strategy Implementation Plan. The main focus is on improving information provision regarding projects, regulation, environmental impacts and other important issues available to all stakeholders, particularly community stakeholders:

- Better informed decision-making and community discussion and debate on gas development activities.
- Reduced reporting costs by utilising open data principles to better leverage collective gas-sector data holdings.
- Improved accessibility and usability of relevant data that is of interest to the industry, community, regulators, researchers and governments.
- Improved and extended knowledge of environmental impacts and opportunities of gas projects for the benefit of the industry, community and public.
- Informed stakeholders on the rigorous regulatory (assessment and compliance) activities by government.

Section 7 of the consultation paper sets out the activities to be undertaken in implementing the Strategy. Two critical activities covered in this section are:

- Improving information on gas reserves and production potential
- Improving public availability and accessibility of rigorous science and factual information



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APGA considers an additional activity necessary to enhancing the development of onshore gas is the clear articulation of natural gas' value to the economy and environment. The Plan should include an activity to demonstrate the role of natural gas in Australia's economy and energy mix and the expected role it will play in the future. APGA considers this activity will be necessary to achieve the fourth outcome listed in the plan:

- Improved and extended knowledge of environmental impacts and *opportunities of gas projects for the benefit of the industry, community and public.*

The Australian public needs to better understand the long-term role natural gas plays in Australia as a fuel and as an export commodity. The industry acknowledges that this is not merely a task for government. The gas industry must and plans to do more to demonstrate the environmental and economic benefits of natural gas. However, government has a critical role to play in articulating the role it sees for natural gas in the future and the Gas Supply Strategy Implementation Plan is an opportunity to achieve this.

This is especially true for the future role gas will play in Australia's energy mix. Government policy can, and often does, incentivise investment in particular technologies. Many members of the public would be aware of various State and Federal Government policies directed towards renewable energy. Such policies can contribute to the perception that the future energy supply in Australia will be entirely sourced from renewable sources and that this will happen rapidly.

The success of the onshore gas industry depends on widespread public acceptance of natural gas and understanding of the long-term role it will play in Australia. Industry and Government must do more to clearly demonstrate the benefits of increased use in Australia and Government policy must better reflect the role it anticipates natural gas will play in reducing emissions.

APGA is happy to work with the CoAG Energy Council to further progress the implementation of the Gas Supply Strategy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Cartwright", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CHERYL CARTWRIGHT
Chief Executive