

Foreword



At AGL, we have a passionate belief in progress, and we're committed to making things better for our customers and communities.

We operate Australia's largest private electricity generation portfolio, and we are an active participant in gas and electricity wholesale markets, with 3.8 million customer accounts.

We consider climate change a critical issue facing the global community, and we are helping to lead the transition of Australia to a lower carbon future.

We are the largest private investor in renewable energy, but we also recognise the importance of flexible energy sources – including quick start gas generation.

The Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) 2020 Gas Statement of Opportunities shows we will face potential gas shortages over coming years in the south-eastern states.

As an essential service provider, the Australian community rely on us to ensure a reliable and affordable supply of gas to their homes and businesses, and the proposed Gas Import Jetty Project would help us achieve this.

The project will provide gas supply certainty and security for Victorian gas customers, while placing downward pressure on gas prices. At the peak of construction, the project is expected to employ more than 500 workers from Victoria and interstate – and we have also made a commitment to a Community Fund of \$7.5 million if the project proceeds.

We know for many in the community the proposed project presents concerns. We recognise these concerns, particularly the strongly held views about the unique environmental significance of Western Port. We agree it is an environmentally sensitive area, and are committed to undergoing all the reviews necessary, as part of the approvals process, to ensure the proposed project will be safe and environmentally responsible.

The Minister for Planning has required AGL and APA to prepare this Environment Effect Statement (EES) to independently assess the potential for environmental effects of the propose project. The EES process is Victoria's most rigorous and transparent environmental assessment process, and we will follow all assessment requirements that are asked of us by the Victorian Government and other regulatory bodies.

We have been consulting with key stakeholders, including people living and working near the site, community groups and the Victorian and Australian governments since July 2017 – with more than 30 public community consultations held in locations including Crib Point, Hastings, and Balnarring.

If approved, we will continue to provide opportunities to engage and involve the community during the construction and operational stages.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Redman', followed by a horizontal line.

Brett Redman
Managing Director & CEO – AGL

Foreword



APA's purpose is "we strengthen communities through responsible energy".

APA is therefore proud to be part of the Gas Import Jetty and Pipeline Project, which will increase energy security, efficiency and affordability for industrial, commercial and residential gas consumers in Australia's south-eastern states.

The interconnected nature of gas and electricity markets on the eastern seaboard means the Project will provide energy security and benefit to Victoria, as well as other eastern states and the national economy more broadly.

APA takes a long-term view so that our infrastructure will serve future generations, providing responsible energy that affords Australians the quality of life we enjoy and expect.

Growing energy infrastructure responsibly and sustainably to meet the needs of our customers and stakeholders is what we do at APA.

Our focus is to make a positive lasting impact in the communities in which we operate.

We therefore put our customers at the centre of what we do, and take pride in engaging with all of our stakeholders, including customers and consumers, employees, contractors, investors, landowners, communities, regulators and policy makers.

The team strives to develop and maintain positive relationships with affected landowners and other key stakeholders along the proposed pipeline, with a continued and focused level of communication and engagement since late 2017.

APA continues to develop and prioritise these interactions to build honest, valued and continued relationships with all our stakeholders.

APA has a long track record of operating assets safely and efficiently whilst also understanding, measuring and ultimately looking to reduce our impact on the environment.

We recognise the Gas Import Jetty and Pipeline Project is located within a diverse environment with significant ecological value, Western Port being a Ramsar listed wetland, and Warringine Park being of local conservation significance.

One of APA's key objectives in this project is to ensure adverse environmental impacts are avoided or minimised.

We have worked with AGL to prepare this EES to understand the Project's holistic potential environmental impacts, and address how impacts can be managed or avoided.

We will continue to work with all of our stakeholders, at a local, state and national level, to mitigate potential environmental issues.

It is my pleasure to share the extensive suite of assessments prepared for the Environment Effects Statement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Wheals'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping underline that loops back under the name.

Rob Wheals
CEO & Managing Director – APA Group