

## **Major gas stream at Energy 21C as the industry faces new challenges and opportunities**

There is a growing focus on Australia's abundance of natural gas reserves as an energy source for industrial and domestic consumers as the nation works towards reducing carbon emissions.

Michael Kilgariff, National Director of Energy Infrastructure Policy & Government Affairs for the Energy Networks Association, said the gas industry was poised to play a major role in delivering Australia's energy needs this century while meeting national greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

"The gas industry has clearly demonstrated its commitment to working with governments to meet energy efficiency and greenhouse gas abatement objectives," Mr Kilgariff said.

"The gas industry is already one of the world's largest investors in solar and renewable energy technologies."

Climate change challenges and solutions will be a major focus of Energy 21C 2009 to be held at the new Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 6 to 9 September.

Around 2,000 delegates from Australia and overseas are expected to attend the premier electricity and gas transmission and distribution conference to address the key themes of customers, climate change, networks and competencies.

Mr Kilgariff said the conference would have a dedicated gas stream with a focus on regulation, asset management, climate change solutions and customers.

It is estimated that the Australian natural gas industry has \$200 billion worth of projects on the drawing board that could help drive the nation's economic recovery through the creation of 50,000 jobs and \$10 billion annually in tax revenue.

Currently, Australian gas distribution services connect around four million households, businesses and industry, through 75,000 km of pipelines.

“Energy 21C will provide an opportunity for people to be at the leading edge of discussion and developments in addressing the challenges and opportunities facing the Australian gas industry,” Mr Kilgariff said.

“Importantly, we will be talking about environmentally sustainable development and growth.”

The gas stream at Energy 21C has already attracted industry leaders and presenters of the highest calibre. Among the speakers in the gas stream will be Barbara Jinks, Business Development Manager Oil and Gas, GHD, and an active member of the International Gas Union (IGU) working committees for gas distribution and transmission.

At Energy 21C, Ms Jinks will report on latest IGU research into global issues relating to all aspects of the gas industry.

“The presentation will provide a compelling snapshot of state-of-the-art developments in gas distribution around the world,” Mr Kilgariff said.

Other confirmed speakers in the Energy 21C gas stream include:

- Bob Cracknell, APA Group - Application of the AS 4844 Meter Standard;
- Macleay Connelly, ActewAGL – Price Resets;
- Ken Gardner, ESV – Victorian Gas Safety Case and Asset Management;
- Mark Beech, Jemena – Safety Case 15 Years On;
- Nithi Nithianandan, SP AusNet – Leakage Survey;
- Neil Pendergast, Tenix Maintenance Services – Gas Pipelines: Past, Present and Future; and
- Ollie Clark, NGV Australia – NGV: Now is the Time!

A vast and interactive industry exhibition, demonstrations and operational site visits aligned with key conference issues will complement the main program of Energy 21C.

Energy 21C is owned by the Energy Networks Association and the Australian Industry Group (Ai Group), and is presented by industry for industry.

For more information or registration, visit [www.energy21c.com.au](http://www.energy21c.com.au) or contact the Conference Managers, Waldron Smith Management, by telephone (03) 9645 6311 or email: [energy21c@wsm.com.au](mailto:energy21c@wsm.com.au)

**Interview:**

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