



Media Release
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Gas offers a balance of payments bonanza and a natural solution to carbon reduction targets

Australia's abundant supply of gas provides a natural solution to meeting many of the nation's carbon reduction targets while saving the country billions of dollars in imported petroleum costs.

Ollie Clark, Executive Officer of Natural Gas Vehicles Australia, told a major energy conference in Melbourne that Australia had more than a century of known gas reserves that could become a mainstream clean fuel.

"Yet we continue to get into the global queue to import around \$18 billion worth of petroleum each year based on current oil prices," he said at the Energy 21C conference.

"Australia is well placed to become one of the world's biggest producers of natural gas. Across the country, natural gas is delivered widely by pipeline, ships and trucks, and it is easily and safely stored.

"Yet we continue to rely overwhelmingly on petroleum for transport while resisting the overwhelming truth that natural gas is a cost competitive alternative fuel offering real benefits in carbon emission reduction and improved air quality in our cities."

Mr Clark said there were currently about 10 million natural gas powered vehicles on roads around the world.

"Natural gas must become a mainstream fuel in this country," he said. "Unlike oil, the plentiful supply of natural gas in Australia helps maintain a low, stable price making it an ideal fuel for transport.

"If you just take a tailpipe view of this issue, we have the opportunity to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants generated by petroleum fuels.

"We must recognise the increasing costs and environmental risks of petroleum importation and change national policy to encourage the use of an indigenous energy resource that can contribute to innovation in Australia's manufacturing industry.

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“Many of the world’s major car makers – including Ford, General Motors, Honda, Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Volvo, Fiat and VW – are producing natural gas vehicles with the numbers growing at around 30 per cent per annum.

“Apart from creating a balance of payments bonanza by reducing our reliance on ever-diminishing global supplies of oil, natural gas will enable the nation’s fuel security and environmental aspirations to be achieved.”

Natural Gas Vehicles Australia (NGVA) is a not-for-profit association and its members are industry representatives committed to promoting natural gas as a transport fuel of choice.

The NGVA and the Energy Networks Association (ENA) are working together to advance the uptake of gas being used in clean energy vehicles.

ENA, the peak body representing gas and electricity distribution businesses throughout Australia, has also released a position statement on electric vehicles. It calls for all stakeholders to work together to better understand opportunities and potential risks associated with plug-in vehicles.

Interview: Ollie Clark is available for interview on 0403 056 544