

## Red Tape Threat To Gas-Fired Economy: APIA

Unnecessarily intrusive regulation is the biggest threat to realising Federal Resources Minister Ian Macfarlane's goal of a gas-fired economy, according to the Australian Pipeline Industry Association (APIA).

APIA Chief Executive Officer, Ms Cheryl Cartwright, welcomed the Australian government's strong commitment to a much expanded natural gas market but warned that inappropriate regulation could hamper efficient construction of pipelines required to transmit gas and meet future demand.

"Clearly the government believes that gas can and should play an important role in Australia's future energy needs", Cartwright said. "The industry also notes that greater gas consumption requires increased pipeline construction, generating more activity and employment across the gas pipeline industry.

"Nevertheless, the greatest threat to the realisation of a gas-fired future is overly intrusive government regulation. At present, the industry is building more pipelines but, under the current regulatory regime, they are being constructed to meet specific, contracted capacity requirements rather than including extra capacity in the initial design.

"APIA looks forward to continuing to work closely with the government to improve the regulatory regime and also to increase the use, and therefore transportation, of natural gas, a less greenhouse intensive fuel, in Australia." ■



APIA CEO Ms Cheryl Cartwright