

Wednesday 13 April

Plenary Session: Innovations And New Directions



FEDERAL OPPOSITION ADDRESS

Hon Ian MacFarlane MP, Opposition Spokesman for Energy & Resources

Ian Macfarlane was first elected to federal Parliament in 1998. As a Minister in the Howard Government he held the portfolio of Small Business (2001), before being promoted to the Cabinet role of Industry, Tourism and Resources (2001-2007). Macfarlane is now the Shadow Minister for Energy and Resources and brings his extensive experience and pragmatic approach to policy work in two of Australia's most important industries. He has previously been the Coalition's spokesperson for Trade and Infrastructure and Water. Before entering federal politics Macfarlane farmed peanuts, sorghum and wheat and ran cattle in Queensland's Burnett region before becoming one of the country's most active agripoliticians. He was President of the Queensland Graingrowers Association for seven years, President of the Grains Council of Australia for two years and simultaneously held executive positions on the Queensland and National Farmers Federations.

ABSTRACT

The Australian gas sector continues to consolidate its position as a vital transitional fuel for a global economy moving towards cleaner energy sources. But its period of prosperity is facing new challenges, in particular the burden of the Gillard Government's carbon tax which will erode Australia's international competitiveness.

This presentation will discuss the impact of the Gillard Government's carbon tax on the LNG sector, with particular reference to LNG's potential to reduce carbon emissions in the long-term, making it imperative that LNG is not unfairly taxed during the production phase.

Macfarlane will also discuss the impact of other issues facing the sector, including public perceptions about the role of LNG and CSG in the energy mix and attitudes towards exploration.

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*Depicts presenter if not lead author.

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