



# The Hon Anthony Roberts MP

Minister for Resources and Energy  
Special Minister of State

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Tuesday 3 March 2015

### **NSW GOVERNMENT WELCOMES PROPOSED LOWER GAS NETWORK COSTS**

Minister for Resources and Energy Anthony Roberts today applauded the decision by privately owned gas network operator, Jemena, to seek a reduction in its own network charges to customers by more than 40 per cent in real terms over five years.

Mr Roberts said if the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) accepts Jemena's final submission on prices for the 2015-2020 period, typical residential customers would save around \$563 over the five year period.

The average network charge for a small residential customer in 2014/15 is \$412, representing around half of the average household retail bill.

"This revised proposal by Jemena is great news for more than 1.2 million residential and small business gas customers across NSW," Mr Roberts said.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is committed to putting downward pressure on energy costs.

"We've reined in electricity prices and put an end to Labor's double-digit price rises, and now we're seeing real decreases in gas network costs.

"That means more money back in the pockets of customers and less money spent on energy bills.

"I applaud Jemena for proposing up to a 40.18 per cent reduction in network costs for NSW households, and up to a 26.63 per cent reduction for small businesses."

Treasurer Andrew Constance said that Jemena's announcement demonstrated once and for all the benefits of private ownership and operation of utilities.

"Today's announcement from Jemena is a clear example of a privately owned business delivering a better service at a lower cost to NSW customers," he said.

"Here is a private network, operating under the same regulatory regime as the electricity networks, voluntarily cutting their network costs by more than 40 per cent.

"Because they're privately owned and operated, they've been able to find the efficiencies needed to lower their costs.

“They’ve been able to identify and avoid unnecessary spending, lower their costs and pass on those savings directly to their 1.2 million customers.

“The lies from NSW Labor and the unions that private corporations are only interested in gouging customers for profit have been well and truly exposed.

“The truth is simple- private companies deliver better results for their customers.

“Luke Foley now needs to admit his scare campaign is based on lies and support the Government’s plan to lower electricity costs for NSW customers.”