



The Hon Anthony Roberts MP

Minister for Resources and Energy
Special Minister of State

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT WELCOMES REVIEW OF EAST COAST GAS MARKET

Minister for Resources and Energy Anthony Roberts has welcomed the support of the COAG Energy Council for a review into the East Coast Gas Market.

Mr Roberts said the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) will examine the design, function and roles of facilitated gas markets and gas transportation arrangements.

“It is critical for NSW and the nation that we have a transparent, competitive and effective East Coast Gas Market,” Mr Roberts said.

“This review will provide recommendations on the best way of promoting competition and transparency in the operation of the East Coast Gas Market.

“NSW imports 95 per cent of the gas we need from interstate.

“We need to know how much gas is available for the State’s 500 heavy manufacturers, 33,000 businesses and 1.3 million households that rely on a secure and affordable supply of gas every day.

“The changing nature of the East Coast Gas Market, due to Queensland’s LNG facilities coming online, means it is more important than ever to increase market transparency to ensure policy makers have as much information as possible to secure affordable gas supplies for households and businesses.

“At present there is no clarity around the domestic gas pipeline system, we don’t know whether certain pipelines are at capacity and which companies are using them.”

Mr Roberts said the AEMC review compliments the NSW Gas Plan- a clear, strategic framework to deliver world’s best practice regulation of the gas industry, while securing vital gas supplies for the State.

“The NSW Gas Plan is a science-based path to developing the State’s own gas resources in a safe, sensible and sustainable way,” he said.

“The NSW Gas Plan adopts all of the recommendations made by the independent Chief Scientist and Engineer.

“The Gas Plan represents a new era for the State’s gas industry.

“The Gas Plan outlines our new Strategic Release Framework which will ensure title areas are only released by the NSW Government following a careful assessment of economic, environmental and social factors, with community consultation conducted up-front.

“This is in stark contrast to the former Labor Government that handed out Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs) like confetti for just \$1,000 each with little regulation or oversight of the industry.”

The COAG Energy Council rejected gas reservation for the East Coast Gas Market as it would deter investment for gas development and have a negative impact on a secure and affordable supply of gas.

The Energy Council, including Labor governments, recognised that the best way to address future supply constraints is through the further development of onshore gas resources.

“Hope is not a strategy when it comes to securing gas supplies for our State,” Mr Roberts said.

“It is clear John Robertson and Labor cannot be trusted to deliver a secure and affordable supply of gas for the State’s 500 manufacturers, 33,000 businesses and 1.3 million households.

“While John Robertson and Labor go back to the drawing board for their one and only gas supply policy, the NSW Government will get on with the job of securing gas supplies for the households and businesses of NSW.

“The NSW Gas Plan outlines our measures to increase our gas supplies and put downward pressure on prices safely and sustainably.”