



## Media Release

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### **Gas can protect Victorian manufacturing jobs and provide a cleaner, cheaper and more secure energy future**

Australia's peak body for downstream gaseous fuels, Gas Energy Australia, has called on all Parties and Independents to commit to gaseous fuels – to preserve Victorian manufacturing jobs and provide a securer, cheaper and cleaner energy future for Victoria.

GEA's Victorian Election Statement urges preserving local manufacturing and industry jobs by providing supportive policy settings for the development of specific gas technologies, shifting the State's regional and end-of-network areas to gas generation and ensuring gaseous fuels have the same access to government support as other low emission technologies.

Its Chief Executive John Griffiths said the Statement wasn't about asking the incoming Victorian Government to choose between gas or renewables - it was about making sure that the right energy and right technology co-existed to protect local manufacturing jobs and provide secure, affordable and low emission energy to all Victorians.

"There are many Victorian based companies directly and indirectly involved in the downstream gaseous fuels industry. For example, Manchester Tank in Echuca, CEM International in Coolaroo and Advanced Fuels Technology in Tullamarine playing a critical supporting role. A number of local Melbourne businesses also established the LPG Autogas Centre of Excellence in Melbourne and some other local Melbourne businesses have been undertaking an interstate LPG dual fuel heavy truck trial. We need to do all we can to preserve these critically important manufacturing and industry jobs."

"The Victorian gaseous fuels industry is also strongly supported by production of LPG in refineries in Geelong and Altona, as well as the Longford gas processing plant in the Gippsland. And Dandenong is home to the BOC/APA Group domestic LNG production and storage facility which was the first of its type built in Australia".

Gaseous fuels can also deliver reliable, cleaner and cheaper power to Victorian consumers by ensuring gaseous fuels receive the same support as other competing low emission technologies like solar.

"Victorian families can save up to \$600 per year on their electricity bills by converting their electric hot water systems to gas - provided the incoming Victorian Government ensures gaseous fuels and products are eligible for the same incentives and rebates that apply to renewables," said Mr Griffiths.

Mr Griffiths said the blackouts in Victoria over the last two years - and the recent Tasmanian energy security crisis - were clear examples of the need for greater energy security. These recent events highlight the need for greater diversity of supply within Victoria and why lower polluting gas has an important role to play.

"That's why we are calling on all Parties and Independents to adopt these three simple key measures that form a package which would benefit all Victorians".

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