

PRESS RELEASE

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Energy Users Welcome Long Anticipated Energy Green Paper

Energy Users welcome yesterday's release of the Energy Green Paper by the Minister for Industry, the Hon. Ian Macfarlane MP. 'Energy users and the energy industry have long anticipated the release of the Energy Green Paper,' said Phil Barresi, CEO of the Energy Users Association Australia (EUAA). 'We're particularly pleased to see the Green Paper outlines a number of significant reforms to improve Australia's energy markets and decrease the price pressure that our members have faced in recent years.'

'For too long, energy users have been hindered by convoluted, complex energy policy,' said Mr Barresi. 'We need certainty in the way forward on a range of issues, including restoring energy competitiveness.'

The EUAA has long heralded the need for an affordable, reliable gas supply that balances the needs of a stressed domestic market as well as a rampaging export industry.

'An improved energy policy framework would remove unnecessary barriers to the industry's ability to supply both domestic and export markets,' said Mr Barresi.

'Despite the welcome removal of the carbon tax, energy users still face rising electricity prices in a shrinking demand market,' said Mr Barresi. 'The historical advantage of abundant cheap energy supply for the domestic industry is slowly disappearing. The Energy Green Paper gives hope to the domestic manufacturing and industrial sector that any decline in our natural advantage will be addressed through the implementation of a robust, equitable policy.'

The EUAA believes a national approach will offer a streamlined energy market. 'We've long called for the benefits of privatisation to be heeded,' said Mr Barresi. 'It's gratifying that this call has been considered in the Paper. Thanks to ill-informed policy, privatisation of state generation and network assets has seen our members in NSW and Queensland face network price increases vastly out of kilter with energy users in Victoria.'

'Large energy users look to the Energy Green Paper to provide a way forward,' said Mr Barresi. 'Energy users need a path of certainty that will help local manufacturers and industry have greater confidence in making future investment in our country.'

The EUAA is the peak industry body for Australia's energy users including manufacturers, retailers and resource-based industries.

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