

## **NEW RESEARCH SHOWING SUPPORT FOR GAS AND GROWING CONCERNS ABOUT COST OF LIVING SHOULD REASSURE GOVERNMENT THAT PROTECTING DOMESTIC GAS SUPPLY IS THE RIGHT MOVE**

Research undertaken by Redbridge on behalf of Australian Pipeline & Gas Association (APGA) demonstrates that Australians understand the critical role of gas in our manufacturing sector and support its ongoing role domestically, said leading Advocate for commercial and industrial energy users, the Energy Users Association of Australia (EUAA).

“It is pleasing to see the research results reaffirm Australians support for a robust manufacturing sector, their understanding of gas’s role domestically and their strong desire to see domestic gas reservation,” said EUAA Chief Executive Officer, Mr Richards.

The EUAA has long been vocal in highlighting the critical need for gas supply in hard to abate sectors as well as to allow the community time to transition to electricity or other fuel sources where possible.

“Encouraging those that can switch from gas to electricity is important, but we should not punish those that cannot,” added Mr Richards. “It is clear from this research that the Australian community knows the important role that gas plays and that they want a robust gas market which ensures domestic gas is available where and when it is needed, and at an affordable price.”

Research findings clearly show ongoing concern about cost of living pressures such as energy bill increases far outweigh any other concerns the community has. Support for gas where it supports domestic manufacturing and jobs is strong and growing, and support for gas being set aside for domestic purposes is very high.

“With the Gas Market Review underway right now, there is a clear opportunity for the federal government to make changes that support the decoupling of domestic gas from international markets, including domestic reservation. In doing so this would put downward pressure on gas prices and in turn reduce some of the cost of living pressures that are creating such a strain on Australian families,” added Mr Richards.

After the recent Federal election, the EUAA released a summary of its key priorities in energy that included increased domestic gas production, support for appropriate gas pipeline and storage capacity, improved market transparency and participant behavior. Many of these issues cross over with Federal and State jurisdictions but the Gas Market Review provides an opportunity to address some of these and potentially consider if domestic reservation should play a role.

*The Energy Users’ Association of Australia (EUAA) is the peak body representing Australian commercial and industrial energy users. Our members are the engine room of the Australian economy, producing many of the products that households and business use every day including bricks, glass, steel, aluminium, paper, food and beverages. Combined our members employ over 1 million Australians, pay billions in energy bills every year and in many cases are exposed to the fluctuations and challenges of international trade.*

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