

MEDIA RELEASE

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Energy users back State on Browse domestic gas

Western Australia's peak energy user group have strongly backed the State's push for a domestic gas commitment from the Browse Project.

DomGas Alliance Chairman, Tony Petersen, said gas users were encouraged by Premier Colin Barnett's undertaking that any development agreement for Browse gas will involve gas solely for domestic use.

"Western Australia faces a significant domestic gas shortfall and even higher prices," Mr Petersen said.

"It is vital that all new LNG projects such as Browse follow the example of Wheatstone and deliver on the State's 15% domestic reservation policy.

"Browse has the potential to provide vital energy security for the State for years to come and any domestic gas commitments need to be unequivocal."

A 15 per cent reservation commitment could deliver supply equivalent to 5 years of the State's annual gas consumption. The Browse fields are estimated to contain around 13.3 trillion cubic feet of sales gas. The State consumes around 0.4 trillion cubic feet of gas a year.

One of the major findings of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Domestic Gas Prices was that LNG developers would not supply the domestic gas market unless there was an obligation by Government to do so.

"I urge the project proponents to work with the State Government to determine the best way for their business to meet their domestic gas commitments," Mr Petersen said.

"This might involve making Browse gas available for domestic use or by providing equivalent additional domestic supply from other gas projects outside Browse."

"Western Australia's domestic gas market must access Browse gas to provide for economic development and jobs."

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The DomGas Alliance

The DomGas Alliance is Western Australia's peak energy user group and represents natural gas users, infrastructure investors and prospective domestic gas producers. The Alliance promotes security and affordability of gas supply.

Alliance members represent around 80 percent of Western Australia's domestic gas consumption and transmission capacity, and supply gas and electricity to the State's 800,000 households and 200,000 small businesses.

