

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Executive Director Appointed

Experienced advocacy and policy professional Matt Brown has been appointed as Executive Director of the DomGas Alliance.

The Alliance provides a united voice to promote security, affordability and diversity of gas supply for industry and households in Western Australia. Its members purchase around 80 per cent of the gas produced for domestic use in WA.

Mr Brown joins the DomGas Alliance from the RAC where he was Head of Advocacy for five years. He has previously worked for more than a decade in policy and media roles at a Federal government level.

Mr Brown said the work of the DomGas Alliance had never been more relevant as the State's economy faces a range of new challenges.

"This is a critical time for gas users in Western Australia and for the thousands of jobs which are supported by those user industries," Mr Brown said.

"Competitively priced gas has helped build Western Australia's economy but despite the State's abundant offshore reserves domestic gas users in this State are facing significant supply shortfalls within 10 years.

"We can look to the East coast for a sense of what that will look like with New South Wales facing imminent supply shortages, threatening the viability of its manufacturing industry and the jobs it provides.

"It's a similar story in Victoria where industry and household consumers are facing dramatic increases in gas prices in coming years.

"There would be many industries on the East coast who would be envious of the domestic gas reservation policy Western Australia put in place in 2006.

"While this policy needs to evolve further, it has continued to provide a degree of certainty for domestic gas users and, despite claims to the contrary, has not driven away investment in exploration and production.

"Defending and building on this policy will help underpin the future growth and diversification of Western Australia's economy, provide job security for Western Australian workers and ensure Perth does not simply become a branch office for the international oil and gas industry."

Mr Brown pointed to floating LNG, with its significant implications for the WA economy, and the need to develop the significant reserves of non-conventional gas in the State's north as being key issues for the Alliance.

"We will work constructively with government, producers, the community and other stakeholders to ensure Western Australia benefits fully from its abundant resources of natural gas."

For media reference Mr Brown can be contacted on 0419 813 171 or via info@domgas.com.au