



## **New survey calls for Canberra to act on WA gas supplies**

The Western Australian community is calling on Canberra to take action to ensure that local industry has access to competitively priced gas, according to the DomGas Alliance.

An independent Flashpoll survey\* of Western Australians in the lead-up to the Senate election re-run shows overwhelming support for a requirement for LNG exporters to ensure a portion of their gas comes to the domestic economy.

DomGas Alliance Executive Director Matt Brown says it's time for both major Federal parties to listen to the Western Australian community.

"Western Australia is heavily dependent on gas for its local industry and the jobs it provides," Mr Brown said.

"With vast resources of natural gas located off our coast, the community cannot understand why our domestic industrial users should be faced with unaffordable pricing and potential supply shortfalls.

"Access to natural gas has helped drive our State's economy and there's no logical reason why it shouldn't continue to do so.

"The strong survey results show that the community understands how important gas is to the State's economy and their own job security.

"It's also sending a loud message to Canberra that the hands-off approach of allowing oil and gas companies to dictate our energy policy is no longer acceptable.

"The community strongly supports the State government's domestic gas reservation policy and wants the Commonwealth to act in a similar manner.

"They are also saying that using our resources to drive the local economy is more important than growing the LNG export sector or delivering more tax revenue to Canberra."

Key survey results:

- 86% say it is very or extremely important to ensure there is enough gas available to meet the needs of Western Australian industry and households;
- 62% believe Western Australia gets greater value from using the gas here to drive the local economy, as opposed to just 31% who think greater benefit is gained from LNG exports;
- despite a strong emphasis by oil and gas producers on how much tax revenue is generated for Canberra by LNG projects, only 5% rated this as the most important goal from using our gas resources;

- 78% rated growing the local economy by using gas to attract industry to WA and promote manufacturing in WA as the top priority, with just 17% saying it should be used to grow the economy by expanding the LNG export industry;
- 89% of respondents oppose pressure by oil and gas producers to have the State government abandon its 15% domestic gas reservation policy;
- on being told that most of WA gas reserves fall within Commonwealth waters under Canberra's control, 96% of respondents said that the Commonwealth should ensure that a share of this gas is supplied to the local economy.

**For further comment contact Matt Brown on 0419 813 171.**

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\* Survey conducted by the Patterson Research Group's *FlashPoll* conducted March 11-13, 2014