



## **Evidence mounting for action on Australia's gas needs.**

The DomGas Alliance has welcomed a new call to arms from a NSW Parliamentary Inquiry to establish a national gas reservation scheme to support Australian jobs and industry.

The NSW Select Committee on the "Supply and cost of gas and liquid fuels in New South Wales" has echoed the long-standing position of the DomGas Alliance that Australia's national energy policy must place Australia's energy needs first.

The Committee found that while Australia has abundant supplies of gas, unrestricted exports of LNG is causing gas shortages and rapidly escalating prices for Australian industry. The Committee stated:

*"Any difficulty with supply or cost can only occur if private commercial interests place the maximisation of their own profits above the energy security and affordability of the community. This in turn can only take place due to regulatory and market failure. **All governments must take action to ensure the interests of the wider community come first.**"*

DomGas Alliance Executive Director Matt Brown says the reports findings are yet another wake up call for national policy makers.

"Almost ten years ago the WA government warned that the gas supply and price problems facing our State would inevitably emerge on the East coast," Mr Brown said.

"Canberra has consistently ignored and rejected these warnings, to the detriment of Australia's manufacturing industry and tens of thousands of gas dependent companies.

"We now face the embarrassment of having some of the largest gas reserves in the world and being one of the world's largest exporters of gas while our own industry and workers run short.

"NSW faces imminent gas shortages. Even in Queensland, where there has been significant CSG activity and three new LNG facilities built, there will be significant gas shortages by 2020.

"The Committee has heard evidence of one in five heavy manufacturers being forced to shut down with more than 90,000 jobs at risk.

"It's time for both sides of Federal politics to confront this policy debacle. We need the LNG industry in Australia but, like other gas exporting nations, we also need to ensure our own energy needs are met first.

"Ensuring a small but fair share of our gas is directed to the domestic market is a sensible, practical long term solution in the national interest.

"We also need further reforms like a crackdown on major producers being allowed to use the retention lease system to warehouse gas for future exports when it is needed now by Australian industry."

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