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### **Nahan comments beginning of the end for joint marketing**

The DomGas Alliance has strongly supported a call by WA Treasurer Mike Nahan for an end to competition-destroying joint market exemptions for major gas projects.

An ACCC exemption allows for joint marketing of gas by the joint venture partners in the North West Shelf project and the Gorgon project.

The exemptions are due for renewal later this year.

Dr Nahan has been reported as saying he wants to see the partners market their gas on their own to encourage more competition.

Dr Nahan is reported as saying, "I personally found it difficult to understand the ACCC's explanation for why they allowed collective selling."

DomGas Alliance Executive Director Matt Brown said Dr Nahan's comments are a significant step forward in the campaign to overturn the exemptions.

"There is only one reason why the joint venture partners want these exemptions – because marketing jointly unfairly increases their market power while reducing the level of competition," Mr Brown said.

"Joint marketing exemptions simply suck competitive pressures out of the market, meaning domestic users pay higher prices than they should.

"The oil and gas industry likes to posture about being champions of the free market. At the same time the industry seeks to protect these exemptions that distort the market in their favour.

"Dr Nahan's comments have hit the nail on the head. There is no justification for these joint marketing arrangements.

"We trust Dr Nahan's comments will mean the State government actively supports local industry and local jobs in fighting for an end to these exemptions when they come up for renewal later this year."

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

