



MEDIA RELEASE

Celebrating 20 years of natural gas in Tasmania

The contribution of natural gas to Tasmanian jobs, the economy and community has been celebrated 20 years after the state was connected to gas from the mainland via the Tasmanian Gas Pipeline and Tas Gas Distribution Network.

Commissioned in 2002, the Tasmanian Gas Pipeline is the only pipeline supplying natural gas to Tasmania. It transports natural gas from Longford in Victoria, under Bass Strait, to Bell Bay. It then splits into two smaller pipelines which transport gas to Port Latta in the North-West and Bridgewater in the South. The gas is then distributed by Tas Gas Networks to industrial, commercial and residential customers, via two natural Gas retailers Tas Gas Retail & Aurora Energy. With over 800 kilometres of pipeline, the network makes up one of the most modern in the nation.

Tasmanian Gas Pipeline CEO Wacek Lipski said natural gas has played an important role in Tasmania's energy mix for 20 years and would continue to do so into the future.

"Since gas started flowing through the pipeline in 2002, natural gas has helped fuel Tasmanian jobs, energy security and growth and provided a cleaner energy alternative to the state," Mr Lipski said.

"The gas has been delivered safely, without any unplanned supply interruptions and is also helping to keep Tasmania's energy supply secure by fuelling the Tamar Valley Power Station, which is a crucial back up energy source for the state in times of low rainfall such as key Tasmanian catchments are currently experiencing."

A 2020 Deloitte economic analysis found that natural gas delivered through the Tasmanian Gas Pipeline enabled over 4,200 direct jobs through some of the state's best-known employers, and over 8,550 Tasmanian jobs in total. This contribution adds close to \$1 billion of value to the Tasmanian economy, or three per cent of the state's Gross State Product.

Tas Gas CEO Phaedra Deckart said that over the past 20 years natural gas has grown in importance, with the energy source today underpinning the reliability of Tasmania's energy supply and being integral to the lives of more than 14,000 households, and the successful operation of 1,000 small to medium businesses and over 70 large industrial customers.

"As we look forward to the next few decades of economic growth in Tasmania, it is critical that we recognise that gas will need to play a role in the State's energy mix if we are to deliver the high levels of energy reliability and affordability that our homes and businesses have enjoyed," Ms Deckart said.

"When looking at Tasmania's energy supply mix today and when planning for our future we must recognise that for many businesses, there is today no alternative currently on the market other than

natural gas that is able to deliver the high-quality grade of heating required for many industrial processes.”

In recognising the 20-year anniversary of natural gas supply to Tasmania, the CEOs of Tasmanian Gas Pipeline and Tas Gas were both united in emphasising the increasingly important role that gas is expected to play in delivering a low carbon future.

Mr Lipski said “The Tasmanian Gas Pipeline is a key piece of infrastructure that connects the state to the mainland and in doing so supports increased intermittent renewable energy generation such as wind and solar by enabling reliable, dispatchable energy generation at times of low wind and irradiance. It will be a valuable part of Tasmania’s energy mix for many years to come.”

Ms Deckart said “Achieving Net Zero Carbon in Tasmania will require a mix of gases including natural gas if that transition is to be made quickly. Tasmania is fortunate that it has an extensive and modern gas distribution pipeline with the local engineering and technical expertise to enable low or zero carbon gases to be appropriately manufactured, transported, and used.”

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About Tasmanian Gas Pipeline

Commissioned in 2002, the Tasmanian Gas Pipeline (TGP) is the only pipeline supplying natural gas to Tasmania. It transports natural gas from Longford in Victoria, under Bass Strait, to Bell Bay in Tasmania supplying gas to both industry and townships in the state.

The TGP is a part of a network of underground high-pressure gas pipes, which stretches over 20,000km and serves all of Australia’s states and territories.

The TGP brings jobs and economic growth to the communities it passes through and provides the opportunity for more than 500,000 Tasmanians to take advantage of the many benefits of natural gas.

About Tas Gas

Tas Gas Holdings (Tas Gas) is Tasmania’s leading natural gas company with expertise in gas transmission, distribution, transportation and retailing. With offices in Launceston and Hobart, and operations that span Tasmania, and regional Victoria, Tas Gas is driven by its customers’ current and future needs with a clear vision to support Australia’s transition to a cleaner energy future.

As part of our future energy pathway, Tas Gas is exploring the possibilities that exist with hydrogen and other green gases. We want to work together with our communities so that we can continue to provide safe, reliable and continuous fuel for our customers.

Tas Gas is the parent company for Tas Gas Retail (TGR), Tas Gas Networks (TGN), Gas Pipeline Victoria (GPV), Regional Energy Victoria (REV) and Gas Networks Victoria (GNV). Tas Gas is owned by Infrastructure Capital Group (ICG).