



Australian Government

Making the most of our gas resources

Australian households and businesses depend on secure and affordable gas.

The Government has committed around \$90 million to improve the transparency, competitiveness and long term security of gas supply in Australia.

Supporting the development of new onshore gas supply

The Government is providing \$28.7 million to support the environmentally and socially responsible development of onshore gas reserves. This will include establishing a new program to encourage the exploration and development of gas reserves to accelerate supply to the east coast gas market. It will also provide benefits to landholders and the community, and provide improved information on landholder rights and the environmental impact of gas development.

South Eastern Australian Offshore Gas Supply

Recognising that securing Australia's energy future will require us to look into a range of options, the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator will review existing and new sources of gas supply to support the expansion of the east coast gas market.

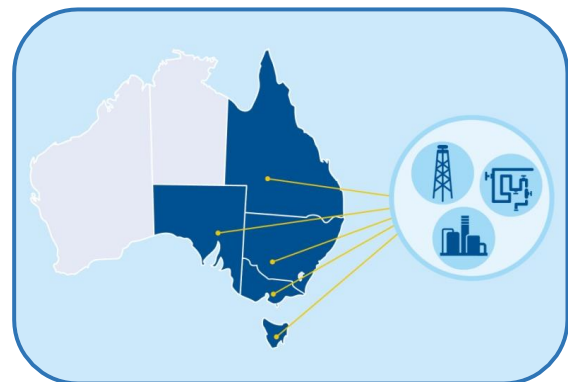
New bioregional and geological resource assessments

The Government believes that gas reserves should be explored on a case by case basis, and will provide \$30.4 million for new combined geological and bioregional resource assessments in three onshore areas that are underexplored but prospective for unconventional gas.

This new work builds on Australia's world leading Bioregional Assessments program to assess any potential impacts from unconventional gas projects on waterways and aquifers. Over the next four years the new program will provide independent scientific advice to governments, landowners and the community, business and investors on future secure and reliable gas supply.

Gas Pipelines

The Government has committed \$5.2 million to undertake a pre-feasibility study for the construction of gas pipelines from the north and west of Australia to the east coast. If proven commercial, the construction of new pipelines may deliver additional supplies of gas to significantly enhance the security of the east coast gas market.



ACCC Monitoring

The east coast gas market lacks transparency. This means it can be difficult to know gas reserve levels and commodity and transport prices which leads to uncertainty over gas pricing. To ensure consumers and industry get a fair deal, the Australian Government has instructed the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to undertake an inquiry into prices, transport and supply and demand for wholesale gas in Australia.

Gas Market Reform Group

Through the COAG Energy Council, the Australian Government will accelerate important reforms to the domestic gas market. The Government will provide \$19.6 million to the Gas Market Reform Group to speed up reforms that will shape the gas market of the future through enhanced transparency and competition in the market, supporting Australia's manufacturing sector and placing downward pressure on prices.

Gas Infrastructure Constraints

High gas prices and the shortage of domestic gas supply have shown that it is important the States continue to work with the Australian Government to deliver reliable and affordable gas to households and businesses. Overcoming regulatory and other barriers and inconsistent policies will support streamlined and accelerated development of new gas market infrastructure. The Government will work with industry and State governments to review existing infrastructure and policy constraints to unlock the full potential of Australia's abundant energy resources.

This will hold energy retailers to account and ensure the energy market is operating in a transparent, reliable and fair manner.

Supporting real-time data on the gas market

We are providing \$2 million to allow the Australian Energy Market Operator to improve the publication of real-time information on the gas market.

Lack of transparency and information about the level of gas reserves and prices is hindering the market's ability to efficiently respond to changing conditions and signal expected supply problems.

The project will scope improvements to the National Gas Services Bulletin Board that will provide gas users, generators, producers and financial institutions access to high quality, timely data on the gas market, and enhance system security by relaying any potential system faults.

Lifting domestic gas supply

The Government has reached agreement with gas producers to ensure supply to the domestic market. To complement this, as a targeted temporary measure of repair to restore certainty to the market during this time of transition, the Government has introduced the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism which will allow the Government to impose export controls on companies when there is not enough gas supply in the Australian market.

