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Delaying eastern Australia's gas crunch

Upgrading infrastructure, diverting exports, buying time for demand reduction

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Contents

Key Findings	3
Executive summary	4
Introduction	5
Planned pipeline upgrades could ease supply shortages	7
Certainty on supply of Queensland gas is key to investment	11
Proposed LNG import terminals offer an alternate infrastructure route	11
Storage is key for peak demand periods	12
Other measures could help to address gas shortages	14
Conclusion	15
About IEEFA	16
About the Author	16

Figures and Tables

Figure 1: AEMO's supply and demand projections, PJ	6
Figure 2: Eastern Australia gas pipeline map	8
Table 1: Capacity on key pipelines connecting Queensland gas fields to southern markets, TJd	.10



Key Findings

Planned upgrades to infrastructure carrying Queensland gas would cover the annual gas shortages predicted in Australia's southern states till 2033, buying governments time for gas demand reduction measures that would address ongoing shortfalls beyond 2033.

Planned storage developments in the southern states would also help to address the risks of short-lived peak demand day shortages in winter.

Government policy to divert gas exports to the domestic market will provide certainty for infrastructure operators to invest in necessary pipeline and storage capacity, ensuring infrastructure is sufficient.

Gas shortages in the southern states could also be addressed by reducing gas demand through electrification and energy efficiency upgrades, particularly if action is taken quickly.





Executive summary

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) forecasts that eastern Australia could face gas shortages from 2029, due to supply from offshore Victoria declining at a faster rate than the long-term fall in gas demand in the region.

While there are still untapped opportunities to accelerate gas demand reduction in the southern states, it is likely that for them to avoid gas shortages will rely on the diversion of gas intended for export into the domestic market. This would be on top of an increase in Queensland gas supplies to southern markets already forecast by AEMO in the coming years.

This is indicative of the fact that liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporters effectively control 90% of east coast gas reserves. Moreover, Queensland has the largest commercial gas reserves in eastern Australia, as well as the lowest cost of production outside Victoria.

Reflecting this outlook, gas infrastructure operator APA Group has undertaken several expansions of its East Coast Grid, with further expansions planned by APA and other infrastructure operators in coming years. IEEFA's analysis, drawing on AEMO forecasts, has found that if these upgrades are implemented, and if there is enough available gas in Queensland, the forecast shortages could be delayed to 2033, with sufficient capacity to 2032 (Figure 1). This would buy time for governments to pursue other measures to address gas supply issues in the longer term, including policies to reduce gas demand in households and suitable industries.



Infrastructure upgrades could close the gas supply gap

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Investment in gas storage in Victoria will also be required to avoid potential peak day gas shortfalls in winter, with planned upgrades to the lona gas storage facility and the planned Golden Beach storage site likely to be sufficient.

This is, of course, predicated on there being sufficient gas supply available for transport from Queensland to the southern states. Greater certainty of gas supply from Queensland, from a change in government policy, is likely to provide greater investment certainty to infrastructure operators.

There is a range of measures that could be implemented to improve supply adequacy in Queensland. While there has been much focus on increasing gas production, there are alternatives that could help to bolster domestic supply without the need for new fossil fuel developments. These include diversion of discretionary LNG spot sales; increased capture of fugitive methane from coal mines and gas infrastructure; electrification of the Queensland LNG plants; and LNG swaps by eastern Australian gas producers who have LNG portfolios outside the state.

Introduction

AEMO has forecast a seasonal gas shortage in eastern Australia in the winter of 2028, and a structural gas shortage from 2029. This is because gas production from legacy gas fields is declining faster than gas demand (which has been falling on the east coast for the past decade).

Existing, committed and anticipated gas supply from the southern markets, which mainly reflects offshore Victorian gas output, is seen falling 36% between 2025 and 2029, and by 58% in the six years to 2031.¹

In contrast, gas demand in New South Wales (NSW), South Australia and Victoria is estimated to fall almost 7% between 2025 and 2029, and by almost 16% over the 10 years to 2035.² This follows gas consumption in eastern Australia falling to a 25-year low in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Declining gas production at Victoria's offshore fields has led to capacity at the Longford plant, the largest in Victoria, being cut from 1,150 terajoules per day (TJ/d) to 700TJ/d in October 2024.³ Longford's capacity is set to shrink further with the closure of its Gas Plant 2 in 2028, and the final plant is to close in 2033.



¹ AEMO. 2025 Gas Statement of Opportunities (GSOO). 20 March 2025. 2025 Gas Statement of Opportunities Supply Data.

² AEMO. Gas Forecasting Data Portal. Gas annual consumption. 2025 GSOO publication.

³ AEMO. <u>Victorian Gas Planning Report, March 2025</u>. Page 13.





Eastern Australia's falling projected gas demand also reflects the energy transition that is underway in Australia. The move from gas varies by sector. The household and commercial sectors are expected see the fastest fall in gas use, while industrial gas use is projected to decline more slowly. Electrification is forecast to account for 50PJ of gas demand in Australia by 2030, and 150PJ by 2040; without electrification the potential gas shortages in eastern Australia could be deeper.⁵ Gas use in power generation has been declining, but is expected to experience a small rebound as more coal-fired power stations retire during the 2030s based on the 'Step Change' scenario in AEMO's 2025 Gas Statement of Opportunities (GSOO).⁶

Concerns about domestic gas shortages have prompted debate about the need for some form of gas reservation in eastern Australia, focused largely on gas destined for spot exports, with gas supply a prominent issue in the recent Australian election. The focus on Queensland gas otherwise destined for LNG spot exports likely reflects several factors:

1. There are three LNG export terminals located in Queensland.⁷ The consortiums that own them control more than 91% of the commercial gas reserves (the proven and probable (2P)



Source: AEMO.⁴

⁴ AEMO. <u>2025 Gas Statement of Opportunities</u>. 20 March 2025. Page 76, Figure 41. Graph reproduced from <u>2025 Gas Statement of</u> <u>Opportunities - report figures and data</u>.

⁵ AEMO. Gas Forecasting Data Portal. <u>Gas annual consumption</u>. 2025 GSOO publication.

⁶ AEMO. <u>2025 Gas Statement of Opportunities</u>. 20 March 2025. Paged 98, 99 and 102.

⁷ Reserve Bank of Australia. <u>Understanding the East Coast Gas Market</u>. March 2021. Page 83.

reserves) in eastern Australia, which are mainly located in the onshore Bowen and Surat basins in Queensland.

- 2. Reporting from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) shows that in aggregate, the three LNG exporters have sufficient reserves to satisfy their contracts and supply the domestic market well into the future. IEEFA analysis finds that existing 2P reserves will be sufficient to meet domestic demand and fulfil LNG contracts for another 16 years based on gas demand in 2024, which reflects demand for both LNG exports and domestic use.⁸ This means there is enough gas until 2041, with AEMO's warning of shortages being largely driven by the timing of gas production rather than underlying reserves.
- 3. LNG spot exports are discretionary (beyond those required to meet long-term contracts), meaning this gas could instead be supplied domestically.
- 4. Recent years have seen LNG exporters sell material volumes of spot LNG, with an estimated 89.6PJ of gas sold through LNG spot sales in 2023.

However, in response to calls for gas reservation on the east coast, industry body the Australian Energy Producers has stated that limitations on gas infrastructure to transport gas south from Queensland present a barrier that would undermine the effectiveness of any domestic reservation measure that seeks to divert gas away from exports and into the domestic market.⁹

This report examines whether there is, or will be, sufficient infrastructure to transport additional gas from Queensland to address southern Australia's shortages.

Planned pipeline upgrades could ease supply shortages

There are three key pipelines used to transport gas from Queensland to the southern states:

- The South West Queensland Pipeline (SWQP), which connects Wallumbilla in the Surat basin to Moomba in South Australia.
- The Moomba to Sydney Pipeline (MSP), which connects Moomba to Sydney (with a subsequent connection to Victoria).
- The Moomba to Adelaide Pipeline System (MAPS).

⁸ AER. <u>Average daily production website.</u>

⁹ Australian Energy Producers. Media release: Statement on the Coalition's Frontier Economics gas policy modelling. 9 April 2025.



Figure 22: Eastern Australia gas pipeline map

Source: Australian Energy Regulator (AER).¹⁰

Given the declining production in the south, AEMO already anticipates increased gas flows from Queensland to the southern markets on these pipelines, with volumes flowing south expected to triple from 46PJ this year (126TJ/d) to 148PJ (406TJ/d) in 2033.¹¹

To fill the remaining gap with existing gas production would require additional flows from Queensland. In assessing whether there is sufficient infrastructure, IEEFA based its calculations on the projections in AEMO's 2025 GSOO. While IEEFA has previously shown that there are many untapped opportunities to reduce gas demand in the southern states, this analysis uses demand levels under AEMO's 'Step Change' scenario, which assumes slower demand reduction.



¹⁰ AER. <u>State of Energy Market 2024</u>. 7 November 2024. Page 147

¹¹ AEMO. <u>2025 Gas Statement of Opportunities</u>. 20 March 2025. Page 76, Figure 41. <u>2025 Gas Statement of Opportunities - report figures and data</u>.

SWQP operator APA Group has already flagged additional upgrades to increase capacity by around 20% by 2028.¹² This would be sufficient to transport the additional volumes anticipated by AEMO until 2032, which includes gas diverted from spot LNG cargoes. If the only option were to rely on more Queensland gas, the SWQP would require further upgrades beyond 2032 to transport enough gas to meet increasing shortages in the southern states. These shortages rise to 835TJ/d by 2034, which represents the peak gap year - shortages shrink for the rest of the GSOO outlook period to 2044. The average flow south would be 776TJ/d between 2034 and 2044 based on a "Queensland gas only" option. However, there are other measures to address the forecast gas shortages, which would present an alternative option to further pipeline expansion beyond the existing plans.

Similarly, the MSP and MAPS have sufficient combined capacity to transport the increased gas volumes already projected by AEMO as well as enough additional gas to address shortfalls through to 2032. By delaying the impending gas shortages, the above infrastructure upgrades should provide sufficient time to develop other measures to address energy demand, which will ultimately see lower pipeline utilisation rates as gas demand declines over the longer term.

By delaying the impending gas shortages, the above infrastructure upgrades " should provide sufficient time to develop other measures to address energy demand

APA, which operates the MSP as well as the SWQP, intends to expand north-to-south capacity by 24% and add more gas storage through its five-stage East Coast Gas Grid (ECGG) plan.¹³ This is in addition to APA's previous AU\$700 million investment to expand capacity in the east coast gas grid over the past four years. The MSP expansion is a part of a more ambitious plan to streamline the flow of gas from Queensland to the southern states. APA has signalled plans to bypass Moomba completely with the construction of a 380km pipeline, known as the Bulloo Interlink, linking the SWQP at Ballera directly to the MSP and increase the latter's pipeline capacity to 700TJ/d (255PJ/year), with the additional capacity to be ready over the winters of 2028 and 2029. The planned expansion of the MSP and the Bulloo Interlink would suffice to transport the gas required to meet AEMO's forecast average daily demand in NSW and Victoria (if more Queensland gas were the only option).

While the operator of MAPS, Epic Energy, has no plans to expand its capacity, this is not likely to impact on the prospect of shortages given South Australia's gas demand is projected to decline by around 24% from 2024 to 2036.¹⁴ The average daily volume in 2036 would equate to around 52% of MAPS capacity, which may provide an alternative to the MSP for additional supply into Victoria.

The final piece of the eastern Australia gas pipeline network is the delivery into Victoria, where traditionally gas has flowed north during summer and south during the winter. The main gas



¹² APA. <u>APA's East Coast Gas Expansion Plan</u>. 24 February 2025.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ AEMO. Gas Forecasting Data Portal. Gas annual consumption. 2025 GSOO publication. South Australia gas annual consumption.

pipelines connecting NSW (and Moomba in South Australia) to the Victoria gas markets are the Victorian Northern Interconnect (VNI), which is connected to the MSP. Its operator APA plans to expand the VNI to 350TJ/d (127.75PJ/year) by winter 2029 from 229TJ/d at present.¹⁵ Victoria's gas demand is forecast to fall below the annual capacity of the proposed enlarged VNI by 2036 and remain below this level for the remainder of the GSOO 2025 outlook period to 2044.

Under the 'Step Change' scenario in GSOO 2025, Victoria will have sufficient gas supply based on forecast production in Victoria and South Australia and the gas volumes transported, including from Queensland, via the expanded VNI. This excludes peak demand day consumption levels in Victoria, which means more infrastructure will be required. Nevertheless, the VNI will become more critical to serving Victoria's gas demand as it increasingly uses gas from outside Victoria by the mid-2030s.

Current capacity	Planned capacity expansion	AEMO projection of southward flows in 2032	Volumes needed to avoid shortages in 2032 (max. over 2025-32)	Volumes needed to avoid shortages from 2033-44 (peak demand year in brackets)
512	605	378	506	835 (2034)
565	700	325	435	736 (2034) 563 (2044)
249	Unchanged	53	71	140 (2035)
362 (flows north only)	200 (south to Victoria from Port Kembla) 300 (north to Sydney from Port Kembla)	200 (south) 300 (north)	200 (south) 300 (north)	200 (south) 300 (north)
229	350	350	350	350
250 (flows out from Victoria)	To flow into Victoria only if LNG terminal at Port Adelaide goes ahead	N/A	N/A	N/A
	capacity 512 565 249 362 (flows north only) 229 250 (flows out from	capacityexpansion512605565700249Unchanged362200 (south to Victoria from Port Kembla) 300 (north to Sydney from Port Kembla)229350250 (flows out from Victoria)To flow into Victoria only if LNG terminal at Port Adelaide	Current capacityPlanned capacity expansionprojection of southward flows in 2032512605378512605378565700325249Unchanged53362200 (south to Victoria from Port Kembla) 300 (north to Sydney from Port Kembla)200 (south)229350350250 (flows out from Victoria only if LNG terminal at Port AdelaideN/A	Current capacityPlanned capacity expansionAEMO projection of southward flows in 2032needed to avoid shortages in 2032 (max. over 2025-32)512605378506565700325435249Unchanged5371200 (south to Victoria from Port Kembla) 300 (north to sydney from Port Kembla)200 (south)200 (south)229350300 (north)300 (north)250 (flows out from Victoria only if LNG terminal at Port AdelaideN/AN/A

Table 1: Capacity on key pipelines from Queensland gas fields to southern markets, TJ/d

Source: AER.¹⁶

Note: The MSP additional volumes in 2034 to 2044 are based on the Longford plant fully closing in 2033, and therefore no gas supply from Victoria, and a delay in the start-up of the Port Kembla Energy Terminal (PKET) in NSW; nor does it consider greater electrification of gas demand.

¹⁵ APA. <u>APA's East Coast Gas Expansion Plan.</u> 24 February 2025.

¹⁶ AER. State of Energy Market 2024. 7 November 2024. Page 211.

Certainty on supply of Queensland gas is key to investment

Queensland holds more than 90% of the commercial gas reserves in eastern Australia and has greater flexibility to provide the gas required to address AEMO's forecast gas shortages. As noted by AEMO, solving southern state gas shortages will require additional gas to flow from Queensland to the southern states.

However, infrastructure providers face the key question of whether sufficient gas will be available in Queensland to underpin their infrastructure upgrade investments. Redirection of gas feedstock for discretionary LNG cargo sales provides an option to address shortages. Crucially, policy measures that ensure this happens would provide more certainty to gas infrastructure operators to make the necessary investments to upgrade pipeline and gas storage capacity.

Proposed LNG import terminals offer an alternate infrastructure route

The proposed LNG import terminals in southern Australia could open more routes for Queensland gas destined for LNG markets to be supplied into the southern states from 2033.

The most advanced of the proposed terminals is the Port Kembla Energy Terminal (PKET) in NSW, which will be connected to the Eastern Gas Pipeline (EGP) through a 12km pipeline.¹⁷ Jemena has started work to allow bi-directional gas flows both north and south, but gas flows south will initially be from Port Kembla to Victoria. This work is expected to be completed by the end of March 2026.¹⁸ However further work on the EGP will be required to allow gas from Queensland to flow south into Victoria through the EGP.

Provided it commences operations, the PKET, with a capacity of 500TJ/d, would be sufficient to address shortages from 2033 onwards. (However, its importance may diminish over time given the forecast gas shortages in 2034 represent the largest gap in the period to 2044 due to declining gas demand in eastern Australia.)

The planned start-up of the PKET in 2027 would also address the higher supply gaps that appear from 2033 onwards. Specifically, the PKET and the associated upgrade to the EGP would address gas shortages anticipated from 2033 to 2044. These upgrades may eliminate the need to expand the VNI beyond current plans.

¹⁷ Jemena. Jemena takes crucial next step to avoid gas shortfall. 21 February 2025

¹⁸ Jemena. <u>LNG regasification – delivering new gas on time and on price</u>. 8 May 2025.

Jemena's planned initial upgrade of the EGP includes 200TJ/d of gas capacity to flow south, and a second phase expansion to 320TJ/d.¹⁹ Jemena also plans further upgrade work on the EGP so it can receive gas from the MSP to send south.

Development of other proposed LNG import terminals may provide additional supply and therefore impact on the risks of gas shortages.

Infrastructure upgrades are likely to be sufficient to address annual supply gaps to 2032, provided there is enough gas available in Queensland. However, more investment is likely to be required to meet peak day winter demand in Victoria. The possible approval of Viva Energy's 140PJ/year gas terminal project at Geelong provides more options to meet the state's gas needs in Victoria.²⁰

Storage is key for peak demand periods

Regasification terminals may help address peak demand periods given that they function as gas storage facilities by holding LNG in tanks before it is regasified and released into the gas pipeline system. However, gas consumption patterns may become more volatile over the next two decades and be more influenced by the weather. Gas peak demand days in both summer and winter in Victoria may increase as the state becomes subject to more extreme weather events.²¹ The implication of this is that expanded storage and pipeline infrastructure may be required to manage lumpy demand.

Gas demand in the south is seasonal with winter heating demand, particularly in Victoria, often boosting consumption compared with the rest of the year. So far in the 2024-25 fiscal year, peak winter demand (the July-August 2024 period) hit a high of 1,102TJ/d in Victoria and more than 2,000TJ/d across Victoria, NSW and South Australia.²² This peak demand consumption exceeds the combined existing and planned daily pipeline capacity of the SWQP, MSP and MAPS, which means gas must also be tapped from storage on peak demand days.

Eastern Australia as a whole had around 196PJ of storage as at mid-2024.²³ However, the majority is located in Queensland, with Victoria having only the lona gas storage facility, which has a capacity of 24PJ and a withdrawal rate of 570TJ/d.²⁴

There are several planned storage additions that will increase Victorian gas storage.



¹⁹ Jemena. Jemena takes crucial next step to avoid gas shortfall. 21 February 2025

²⁰ Australian Financial Review (AFR). <u>Victoria clears path for local gas imports as shortage looms</u>. May 30, 2025.

²¹ Victoria State Government. <u>Victoria's Climate Science Report 2024</u>. Page 5.

²² AER. Peak day demand by region.

²³ AER. State of Energy Market 2024 data. October 2023. Figure 4.17.

²⁴ AEMO. 2025 Gas Statement of Opportunities. 20 March 2025. Page 62.

The operator of Iona, Lochard Energy, plans to expand the facility to a maximum of 32.6PJ, with a withdrawal rate of 765TJ/d.²⁵ This will help to address some of the anticipated future peak day gas shortages (demand on these days is anticipated to be around 2,000TJ/d).

The planned development of the Golden Beach gas storage facility would provide sufficient additional southern storage to address any remaining peak demand day gas shortages.

Golden Beach is a gas field located about 3km off the Victorian coastline.²⁶ Before it can become a gas storage facility the field has around 50PJ of reserves to be depleted, which operator GB Energy plans to supply into the Victoria gas market over a 12-18 month period.²⁷ Following a final investment decision by GB Energy on the project this year, gas will flow from the winter of 2028, with gas storage commencing by the end of 2029.²⁸

The Golden Beach facility's capacity would equate to gas supply of between 91-137TJ/d, and would meet between around 20-30% of Victoria's gas demand in both 2028 and 2029. This would be sufficient to address the 24PJ gas shortage AEMO forecasted for 2029. The Golden Beach project is not part of AEMO's planned or anticipated projects in its 2025 GSOO.²⁹

If the Iona and Golden Beach gas storage developments proceed, they would provide Victoria with a total storage capacity of almost 65PJ and a daily withdrawal capacity of around 1,400TJ/d. This daily capacity, together with the daily capacity of the MSP and MAPS, would provide a potential combined peak day capacity of about 2,350TJ/d – although this would also require the South East Australia Gas (SEAGas) pipeline being made bi-directional to transport gas south into Victoria.

The SEAGas pipeline links to the MAPs pipeline in Adelaide and to the lona gas storage plant in Victoria. The addition of the PKET would provide further gas supply for peak demand days.

APA also plans to build storage of up to 0.5PJ on a proposed 148km Riverina storage pipeline in NSW by 2029.³⁰ The purpose of the Riverina is to provide storage for potential gas peaker power plants such as the 692MW gas-fired Uranquinty power station.³¹

The planned upgrades to gas infrastructure will be sufficient to address the impending shortages, provided there is enough gas available in Queensland.

²⁵ AEMO. <u>2025 Gas Statement of Opportunities</u>. 20 March 2025. Page 62.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ AFR. <u>Vic gas squeeze opens up \$1b storage opportunity</u>. 21 January 2025.

²⁸ GB Energy. <u>GB Energy to significantly increase the size of storage facility</u>. 21 January 2025.

²⁹ AEMO. 2025 Gas Statement of Opportunities. 20 March 2025. Page 63.

³⁰ APA. APA's East Coast Gas Expansion Plan. 24 February 2025.

³¹ AEMO. 2025 Gas Statement of Opportunities. 20 March 2025. Page 59.

Other measures could help to address gas shortages

There is a range of measures which, if they come to fruition, could result in reducing gas demand and additional supply, and help to address gas shortages.

IEEFA has previously found that electrification and energy efficiency upgrades could slash gas demand in the southern states, particularly if action is taken quickly. For example, implementation of industrial heat pumps could replace about 17% of Australia's total gas use, with key near-term opportunities to reduce gas demand in sectors including alumina refining and the food and beverage industry.³² This would directly impact on the likelihood of gas shortages given that AEMO forecasts relatively stable future industrial gas demand.

There is also potential for more gas supplies from traditional sources. While Victoria's traditional gas fields are rapidly declining, there continues to be exploration and appraisal of new offshore gas fields. Recent years have seen a ramp-up in exploration activity in offshore Victoria and the onshore Cooper basin, which would mean the southern states are not so reliant on Queensland.^{33,34,35,36,37}

New gas discoveries in offshore Victoria would have important implications for the gas market and for future infrastructure developments. Specifically, if any of these exploration ventures yield more gas it may change the supply-and-demand equation in eastern Australia, and in turn alter the requirements for gas pipeline infrastructure. Any commercial discoveries offshore Victoria in the coming years may alter the timing of the planned reduction of Longford gas processing capacity in the state before 2030, and reduce total infrastructure costs as much of the necessary pipeline infrastructure is already in place.

The gas sector has been looking at encouraging biomethane supply to supplement fossil methane gas. The creation of a biomethane industry in Australia could be a small but important supplier to the east coast gas market, and policies such as the Victorian renewable gas target, which aims to obtain 4.5PJ/year (6% of the state's projected industrial gas demand) of biomethane by 2035, could help stimulate that market.³⁸ ACIL Allen estimates that combined biomethane supply in NSW, South Australia, and Victoria could be as high as 144.1PJ (395TJ/d) by 2030 and 150PJ (411TJ/d) after 2030.³⁹ This represents around 46-48% of gas demand for the three southern states in 2030.

Another source of gas could come from upstream oil and gas firms scaling up their ability to capture leaked methane along their supply chain. About 80PJ of gas could be available across Australia from

³² IEEFA. <u>Harnessing industrial heat could cut gas use by 17%</u>. 31October 2024

³³ AEMO. <u>Victorian Gas Planning Report, March 2025.</u> Page 15.

³⁴ AFR. <u>Massive gas drilling program approved in Bass Strait.</u> 4 March 2025.

³⁵ The Australian. KNOC joins ConocoPhillips, 3D Energi in high-stakes Otway gas push amid looming east coast shortfall. 16 May 2025.

³⁶ Beach Energy. <u>FY25 half year results</u>. 6 February 2025

³⁷ Santos. Managing director Kevin Gallagher's presentation at the 2025 Macquarie Australia Conference. 7 May 2025.

³⁸ Renew Economy. <u>Victoria to legislate "first of its kind" 2035 renewable gas target for industrial use.</u> 7 May 2025

³⁹ ACIL Allen. Gas, liquid fuel, coal, and renewable gas projections. Final report. 25 February 2025. Pages B-5, B-6.

higher rates of methane capture in the upstream sector, according to S&P Global Commodity Insights.⁴⁰ This could equate to around 24PJ of methane captured in eastern Australia based on the proportion of gas its produces.^{41,42}

Conclusion

The planned upgrades to existing gas pipeline and gas storage infrastructure will be sufficient to allow for additional gas to be transported south from Queensland to address annual gas shortages through to 2032, or three years later than existing forecasts. This would provide time to pursue other measures such as greater rates of electrification of gas demand across the industrial, residential and commercial sectors.

The potential start-up of the PKET in 2027 and the proposed Viva Energy gas terminal also negate the need for further pipeline expansion beyond the current planned (but not yet executed) upgrades and would also provide more storage capacity required for peak winter periods. The planned storage developments in the southern states, particularly in Victoria, would also help to address the risks of short-lived peak demand day shortages in winter.

Government policy to incentivise greater domestic gas supply by Queensland LNG exporters would help provide greater investment certainty to infrastructure operators to make investments in new pipeline and storage capacity, thereby increasing the likelihood there will be sufficient infrastructure.

A potential delay to gas shortages until 2033 would also provide adequate time to develop more options. These include additional gas supply from offshore Victoria; scalable biomethane supply; increased methane capture; and the electrification of LNG plants.



⁴⁰ S&P Global Commodity Insights. Levers for capturing methane emissions to improve gas availability. December 2022. Page 5.

⁴¹ Australian Energy Producers. <u>Key Statistics 2024</u>. Page 4-5.

⁴² Australian Government, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. <u>Australian energy production – fuel</u> type.

About IEEFA

The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) examines issues related to energy markets, trends and policies. The Institute's mission is to accelerate the transition to a diverse, sustainable and profitable energy economy. <u>www.ieefa.org</u>

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