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House Standing Committee on Regional Australia
Via email: ra.reps@aph.gov.au

Inquiry into the use 'fly-in, fly-out' (FIFO) workforce practices in regional Australia

Dear Committee Members,

The Australian Pipeline Industry Association (APIA) represents Australia's gas transmission industry. Members are from all sectors of the industry, including: operation, manufacturing, design, construction and a range of services. Australia's gas transmission pipelines connect our (typically) remote sources of gas with the demand hubs of cities and industrial regions. The industry uses FIFO workforce practices, primarily during major projects such as construction of new pipelines and expansion of existing pipelines.

A pipeline construction project, like most linear infrastructure projects, is substantially different from a resource project. Unlike a resource project, a pipeline project is not confined to a single site or region; it is a moving project with a finish point that is many kilometres (often hundreds) distant from the starting point. Also unlike a resource project, which measure life-spans in years if not decades, the construction phase of a pipeline project runs over the course of months.

The location of the work on the projects moves, and so does the location of the accommodation. It is generally impractical for companies to relocate project workers to a specific region or town and it is standard practice for a pipeline project to transport stand-alone camps to service the workers for the life of a project. This minimises the 'on-site' transport requirements of the workforce, and also limits the impact a pipeline project workforce has on local community infrastructure.

APIA is aware the Committee will examine many important issues over the course of its inquiry, and would like to take this opportunity to remind the Committee that there is a class of projects, of which pipeline projects are one example, for which a FIFO workforce is the appropriate option for project, proponents, the workforce and communities.

Yours sincerely

CHERYL CARTWRIGHT
Chief Executive