

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016 - 2017 Additional Estimates
2 March 2017

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Domestic LNG for Industry at Affordable Prices

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: AI-155

What work is the Department doing to ensure a reliable and sufficient supply of domestic LNG for industry at affordable prices?

ANSWER

The Department is a key agency in the Government taskforce for Australia's domestic gas market, which was announced following the Prime Minister's meeting with gas industry stakeholders on 15 March 2017. Through the taskforce, the Department will work with stakeholders and agencies to:

- support gas supply guarantee arrangements for periods of peak demand in the National Electricity Market;
- increase the availability of gas to the domestic market as soon as possible, to keep downward pressure on prices;
- improve transparency in the gas market, to facilitate competition between producers and information for gas buyers;
- encourage state and territory governments to revisit restrictions on gas exploration and development; and,
- support accelerated gas market reforms arising from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) 2016 inquiry into the east coast gas market, to improve pipeline capacity trading and gas trading markets.