

MEDIA RELEASE



PO Box 63, Dickson ACT 2602 Ph: 6267 1800 Fax: 6267 1888 info@aluminium.org.au

WHAT MARKET? IS THERE REALLY A DEEP DOMESTIC GAS MARKET IN AUSTRALIA?

“We do not have a functional domestic gas market in Australia,” said Miles Prosser, Executive Director at the Australian Aluminium Council (AAC), agreeing with key conclusions from a recent report from the Ai Group. “The absence of a deep and efficient gas market makes it extremely difficult for domestic industry to secure long-term gas contracts, which is stifling investment decisions,” said Mr Prosser.

“Claims that there is plenty of gas available and that the market will find a solution are simply wishful thinking when domestic users struggle to find suppliers in a thin and shallow market,” said Mr Prosser.

The alumina and aluminium sectors are significant gas customers using over 140 PJ of gas annually. The industry employs more than 15,000 workers nationally, particularly in regional Australia, and has combined export earnings from alumina and aluminium of approximately \$10 billion.

The AAC stands ready to join a discussion on policy approaches and solutions. “The need for a better domestic gas market has been outlined in detail by both the Ai Group and Manufacturing Australia,” said Mr Prosser.

“The situation needs to change if policy makers want viable domestic manufacturing to remain a significant contributor to the national economy,” said Mr Prosser.

“Impacts on gas users are not being addressed by the market so the question still stands – what will be done to get a real Australian gas market operating?”

Contact: Miles Prosser, Executive Director, Australian Aluminium Council, **0429 923 605**.