Media Release

SP AusNet to extend its gas network to Bannockburn

SP AusNet will extend its underground natural gas network to Bannockburn, providing local residents and businesses with the choice of a cost effective, convenient and environmentally friendly energy supply.

The Minister for Regional and Rural Development, Peter Ryan, made the announcement today in Bannockburn as part of the State Government's *Energy for the Regions* program.

Alistair Parker, SP AusNet's General Manager – Asset Management, welcomed the announcement to supply natural gas to more regional towns.

"SP AusNet is pleased to announce an agreement with Regional Development Victoria that will see Bannockburn join Avoca and Huntly to receive natural gas through our underground network as part of the *Energy for the Regions* program," Alistair said.

"Local residents and businesses will now have the convenient access to natural gas, an acknowledged cost effective and environmentally beneficial energy source for cooking, heating and hot water systems," he said.

It's expected that gas will become available to more than 1,400 properties in Bannockburn by December 2016.

SP AusNet is committed to allocating its resources to ensure a safe and reliable supply of natural gas to existing customers and bringing more gas to Victorians through efficient investment.

"In the last five years, SP AusNet has carried out works costing more than $580m in operating, maintaining and extending our natural gas network in western Victoria to more than 92,000 homes and businesses," Alistair said.

"We welcome the government's support through the *Energy for the Regions* program and look forward to connecting more Victorian's to our natural gas network," he said.

Under the previous State Government's natural gas extension program, SP AusNet connected gas to 12 Victorians towns: Barwon Heads, Camperdown, Creswick, Gisborne, Lancefield, Macedon, Maiden Gully, New Gisborne, Port Fairy, Riddells Creek, Romsey and Woodend.

SP AusNet will provide detailed information on its website – www.sp-ausnet.com.au – for each of the towns approved for connection through the *Energy for the Regions* program.

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About SP AusNet
SP AusNet is Victoria's largest diversified energy infrastructure business, owning and operating the state-wide electricity network, along with gas and electricity distribution networks servicing more than 1.2 million customers.

SP AusNet delivers natural gas to more than 620,000 businesses and households via approximately 10,000km of gas pipelines in outer western metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria's west.

For more information, visit www.sp-ausnet.com.au.