

14 May 2014

Huntly residents warming with gas

Natural gas is now flowing from SP AusNet's new underground gas network into Huntly homes, giving residents a cost effective and convenient energy supply.

SP AusNet began drilling to extend its underground gas pipeline from Bendigo to Huntly in October and is on schedule to complete laying the remaining street pipelines by June.

SP AusNet's Program Manager, Geoff Thorn, said the project is on track and customers need to act now to receive natural gas before the cold winter months.

"Our construction phase is nearing completion and I'd like to thank the local community for accommodating our crews to deliver the underground gas network on time, safely and with minimal disruption," Mr Thorn said.

"More than 50 properties are now connected and enjoying the benefits of natural gas for cooking, heating and hot water systems, replacing the need to use bottled gas and fire wood.

"It's estimated that approximately 580 Huntly residents and businesses will have access to natural gas, therefore, I'd recommend they contact their preferred gas retailer to lodge a new connection application before winter arrives," he said.

Before gas can be used, a service pipe from the street to the house and internal pipes installed before a gas meter is fitted.

Through consultation with the Huntly community, SP AusNet has expanded the original gas network to include Aireys Street, Holmes Road, Gold Leaf Court and O'Sullivan's Road, all areas outside of the initial reticulation area.

SP AusNet has 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.

"Importantly, SP AusNet thanks the State Government for its support in bringing natural gas to Huntly through the *Energy for the Regions* program and we look forward to connecting more Victorian's to our natural gas network," he said.

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.

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

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About SP AusNet

SP AusNet is the largest diversified energy network business in Victoria, owning and operating more than \$10 billion of electricity and gas distribution assets, including the state-wide electricity transmission network. The company also has a non-regulated division, Select Solutions, providing utility services.

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Headquartered in Melbourne, Australia, SP AusNet employs more than 1800 people to service 1.3 million consumers and is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: SPN) and the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX-ST: X04).