

## **DRAFT Media Update – All Media**

**2 July 2008, 4:30pm WST**



### **SUBJECT: DOMESTIC GAS SUPPLY**

Residential and small business customers need to guard against complacency when it comes to conserving gas over the coming weeks prior to the resumption of partial supply from Varanus Island.

Alinta has over 560,000 residential and small business customers in the South West using approximately 15 to 20% of available gas in the current environment.

Indications are that residential and small business customers have reduced their gas use by 5 to 10% over comparable periods in previous years.

Any gas savings by residential and small business customers would be available to industry most affected by the current supply shortage.

Normal residential demand can increase significantly on cold mornings. If this occurs in the current environment industry will have less supply to continue operations.

#### **What can households do to help?**

If each household cut back heater use to a maximum of 2 hours per day and reduce shower time to 4 minutes, this would free up enough gas to help keep businesses most affected operating. Every little bit counts and if we all make these small sacrifices over the next few months we'd save an amount of gas equivalent to that required to power the City of Fremantle for over 4 years.

See [www.energy.wa.gov.au](http://www.energy.wa.gov.au) for more simple tips on saving energy.

#### **What can small business do to help?**

Consider what's essential – stop using gas where it is not critical to your business. Educate staff to reduce energy use where possible. Shift your production cycle to off-peak if possible: weekdays between 10pm and 8am and weekends.

The State Government has set up a hotline for small business owners to seek advice on how to save energy, as well as support to cope with the effects of the gas explosion at Varanus Island. The freecall hotline – 1800 199 125 – is open Monday to Friday between 8.15am and 5.15pm and small business owners can also access online support at [www.sbdc.com.au](http://www.sbdc.com.au).

#### **Can Alinta give businesses most affected advanced warning of outages to help them plan?**

Energy availability varies daily according to a number of factors, including the weather and residential demand. Consequently, if residential demand increases there will be less gas available to industry. At this time we can only allocate on a daily basis, but we are working hard to provide businesses most affected with as much information as is available so they can plan in advance. The Gas Supply Coordination Committee has developed the priority schedule for the allocation of available gas. See [www.energy.wa.gov.au](http://www.energy.wa.gov.au) for details.

#### **New gas trading platform**

The State Government has announced the launch of a gas bulletin board for additional gas that might be available. While we need to assess the details behind the bulletin board, Alinta believes that any proposal that makes more gas available at a fair and reasonable price to those industries most in need should be supported.

**Victor Browner**  
General Manager, Alinta

**Media enquiries:** Please contact Tim Larcombe – 0403 819 781