

6 February 2026

Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing
Department of Industry, Science and Resources

Re: Domestic Manufacturing for Wind and Transmission Infrastructure Consultation

Australian Energy Producers (AEP) welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the consultation on domestic manufacturing of wind and transmission infrastructure.

Natural gas is critical to a resilient and competitive manufacturing sector in Australia, including key components of the wind and transmission supply chain. Gas supplies 37 per cent of the energy used by Australian manufacturing, which contributes more than \$100 billion to the economy and supports around 1.3 million jobs.

Natural gas provides the feedstock and industrial heat required to manufacture key components of renewable and transmission infrastructure, including:

- Wind turbine towers and foundations (steel production supported by natural gas);
- Turbine blades (fibreglass, plastics and epoxy resins derived from gas and petroleum);
- Transmission towers (steel production supported by natural gas); and
- High-voltage cables and insulation (plastics and polymers derived from gas and petroleum).

Natural gas is also central to the sustainability of Australian steel production, which is essential for wind towers and transmission infrastructure. The Australian Steel Institute estimates that “switching from coal-based reduction of iron ore in a blast furnace, to natural gas-based production of DRI, will result in an approximate 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions intensity.” The recent announcement of a new gas supply agreement for the Whyalla steelworks to support fuel switching from coal to gas highlights the practical role gas can play in sustaining domestic steel capability.

Natural gas also supports the reliability of Australia’s electricity system – backing up renewables and supporting the transition away from Coal – which is critical for manufacturers that require consistent, high-capacity energy supply.

To support domestic manufacturing objectives, AEP recommends that the Government:

- Recognise the importance of natural gas in Australia’s energy, climate and industry policies, including as a key input to wind and transmission supply chains; and
- Support the timely development of new gas supply, including policies that encourage exploration and investment.

AEP would welcome further engagement as this consultation progresses.

Yours sincerely,



Brendan Beck

Australian Energy Producers General Manager Policy