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Labor support for moratorium puts jobs at risk

The Western Australian Labor Party is jeopardizing jobs and investment in the State's oil and gas industry by supporting calls for a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing.

APPEA Chief Operating Officer Western Region Stedman Ellis said a moratorium would prevent the exploration activity needed to encourage onshore gas investment.

"It is disappointing that Labor's State Conference has today chosen to ignore the clear evidence which shows that hydraulic fracturing is a safe, well-understood technology that has been used in WA for decades," Mr Ellis said.

"Numerous studies here in Australia and overseas have shown that any risks can be safely managed with proper regulation and good industry practices.

"Importantly, the experience in Queensland over the past five years demonstrates the importance of onshore gas projects to regional communities and farmers."

Mr Ellis said Labor's call for another inquiry also made no sense when a two-year inquiry into hydraulic fracturing by a WA Parliamentary Committee was expected to deliver its final report later this year.

"The onshore gas industry has the potential to become an important driver of jobs and economic development in regional WA," Mr Ellis said.

"Its activities are already subject to strict regulation by government and its participants are committed to high standards of health, safety and environmental management.

"Moratoriums and unnecessary inquiries will not only damage the industry's development, they also tarnish WA's reputation as an attractive destination of oil and gas investment."

Media Contact: Kieran Murphy – 0408 151 922 – kmurphy@appea.com.au

Canberra +61 2 6247 0960
appea@appea.com.au

Brisbane +61 7 3231 0500
brisbane@appea.com.au

Darwin +61 4 3391 7317
darwin@appea.com.au

Perth +61 8 9426 7200
perth@appea.com.au

Sydney +61 2 8241 1900
sydney@appea.com.au