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Media Release

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Global oil and gas survey reveals mixed performance by Australian jurisdictions

Australian governments have been issued a timely reminder of the need to maintain their focus on removing barriers to investment in oil and gas.

Ahead of tomorrow's COAG Energy Council meeting, a leading global survey shows there are mixed views about the performance of Australia's various regulatory and fiscal regimes.

The Fraser Institute's ninth annual survey confirms South Australia's status amongst petroleum industry executives and managers as Australia's most attractive oil and gas investment destination, ranking 12th out of 126 jurisdictions surveyed.

The state was singled out in the report for: *"Strong political leadership on the fracking debate and support for free market on gas supply versus calls for domestic gas reservation policy."*

APPEA Chief Executive Malcolm Roberts said the survey recognised South Australia's ongoing efforts to attract investment while maintaining high regulatory standards.

"South Australia has improved its global ranking in each of the last four surveys and has achieved the highest possible ranking this year for its fiscal regime," Mr Roberts said.

"In today's highly competitive investment environment, South Australia is clearly showing the world that it is open for business.

"While most other states and territories have also improved their rankings this year, it is disappointing to see New South Wales and Victoria go backwards.

"Unnecessary moratoriums and similar restrictions on exploration and development only serve to stifle jobs and economic development and jeopardise energy security.

"Strong leadership from governments and sensible, consistent regulatory oversight is essential if our oil and gas industry is to continue to grow and deliver benefits for all Australians."

Mr Roberts said the petroleum industry's importance to Australia was highlighted by yesterday's September quarter national accounts which showed an 11.4 per cent increase in oil and gas production contributing strongly to a higher-than-forecast growth rate of 0.9 per cent.

"Regulatory failure is a significant risk to further development of the industry, particularly on the east coast," he said.

"This is the key issue that governments, through the COAG Energy Council, can address when they meet on Friday."

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Fraser Institute Global Petroleum Survey 2015 – Overall ranking of Australian jurisdictions

	2015 (126)	2014 (156)	2013 (157)	2012 (147)	2011 (135)
South Australia	12	18	27	29	21
Western Australia	33	50	49	40	37
Northern Territory	34	39	33	44	30
Commonwealth	40	43	54	33	40
Queensland	47	55	69	50	42
Victoria	65	49	56	43	19
Tasmania	70	47	52	51	28
New South Wales	87	83	84	63	45

*The number of jurisdictions surveyed each year is shown in brackets. *Source: Fraser Institute 2015*

Comparison of Australian jurisdictions in selected categories

	NSW		NT		Qld		SA		Tas		Vic		WA		Cwlth	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
Fiscal Terms	60	93	12	11	18	53	1	15	31	39	40	98	14	28	38	16
Environmental Regulations	121	149	51	105	105	128	20	89	107	122	120	136	68	132	94	134
Regulation Uncertainty	64	84	16	25	33	54	11	23	51	64	55	48	33	26	28	28
Cost of Regulatory Compliance	112	143	59	88	63	121	20	67	103	71	103	77	76	93	61	100
Regulatory Duplication	111	84	79	77	56	56	43	30	100	100	90	68	61	54	39	32
Disputed Land Claims	110	143	109	136	102	138	25	70	118	103	88	88	108	114	30	39
Labour Regulations	104	126	49	79	103	115	55	95	90	100	102	93	87	119	97	128

*2015 rank out of 126: 2014 rank out of 156: Figures in bold represent highest Australian rank. *Source: Fraser Institute 2015*