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WA Government, LNG industry in new jobs focus

APPEA welcomes the Western Australian Government's announcement today that it will work with industry to help create new long-term job opportunities servicing, maintaining and improving the State's liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry.

Premier Mark McGowan told an industry conference in Perth that a new LNG Jobs Taskforce would be established to maximise the benefits from WA LNG operations, support services and infrastructure.

APPEA Chief Operating Officer WA Stedman Ellis said collaboration between government and industry was the key to creating a vibrant new LNG service sector.

"Australia is on the verge of becoming the world's leading LNG exporter and WA is the nation's leading LNG producer," Mr Ellis said.

"As the construction phase is reaching completion, we need to seize the opportunity to develop an innovative local service sector to support LNG operations for decades to come.

"WA has a very strong foundation to build on. With 11 LNG trains producing almost 50 million tonnes per annum when fully commissioned, WA has the potential to be a world-class leader in LNG operations.

"The benefits to the WA economy would be enormous. McKinsey and Company estimate that a new LNG service industry could deliver up to 15,000 new jobs and up to \$1 billion every year in exports to other LNG producers.

"The WA Government is to be applauded for recognising this opportunity and for providing leadership. But timing is crucial. We face competition from Singapore, Malaysia and a number of nations in the Middle East which are all developing their own LNG service sectors.

"While there is much to be done, establishing a taskforce to ensure alignment between government and industry is an important first step."

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