



18 JUL, 2020

Methane claims stink

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Page 1 of 1

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Bob Carr's article ("Gas isn't the clean fuel we thought it was", July 16) argues methane emissions from natural gas could outweigh its benefits of delivering a lower emissions future, referring to a study from the journal *Nature* by University of Rochester academic Benjamin Hmiel.

Citing the article in unqualified support ignores the caution that one of the study's authors told *The New York Times*: "These measurements are incredibly difficult. So getting more data to help confirm our results would be very valuable ... that means there's quite a bit more research to be done." Research into fossil fuel emissions is ongoing and it does not support the findings. Leading atmospheric chemistry academics responded to *Nature* with Harvard professor of atmospheric chemistry Daniel Jacob telling the *Washington Post* the study's claim that fossil fuel methane emissions

are higher than previously estimated was wrong.

In Australia, CSIRO's GISERA has measured the full life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions associated with an operating onshore gas project. The report found life-cycle emissions could be reduced by between 31 per cent and 50 per cent compared with coal-fired power generation. It also found indirect and external greenhouse gas emissions associated with the LNG production process represented about 1.4 per cent of likely future production, well below other sources like landfill and feed lots.

**Andrew McConville, Chief Executive
of the Australian Petroleum
Production & Exploration Association**