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## A more reliable gas supply for Castlemaine residents

Victorian gas network owner SP AusNet has commenced replacing the remaining low-pressure gas mains (pipes) in Castlemaine to further improve reliability to residents.

Expected to be complete by mid-2013, the \$2 million project will replace almost 15 kilometres of underground cast iron low-pressure gas mains with modern, polypropylene high-pressure mains.

SP AusNet Gas Project Manager, Alan Caudle, said the company is upgrading Castlemaine's gas network as part of its multi-million dollar program to replace low-pressure gas mains throughout its network by 2025.

"Since inheriting the gas network, SP AusNet has spent tens of millions upgrading to the high-pressure mains for customer in our gas network," Mr Caudle said.

"High-pressure mains improve the safety and supply reliability of gas delivery to our customers.

"Once this project is completed, there will no remaining low-pressure mains in the town of Castlemaine," he said.

Mr Caudle said a lot of planning had been invested in this project to ensure minimal disruption to the 778 properties.

"Safety is always our main priority and biggest consideration. Those property owners who may experience gas supply issues during these planned works will be notified in advance and we are working hard to reduce any inconvenience to the public and our customers," Mr Caudle said.

In the last 12 months, SP AusNet replaced 82 kilometres of low-pressure mains with high-pressure mains, commissioned 147 kilometres of new gas mains and connected 18,514 new customers across the gas network.

"Our low-pressure pipe replacement program and other initiatives have helped reduce the minutes off supply for our gas customers by 11.2 per cent," Mr Caudle said.

**Ends...**

### **About SP AusNet**

SP AusNet is the largest diversified energy infrastructure business in Victoria, owning and operating a state-wide electricity transmission network, along with an electricity and gas distribution network.

SP AusNet delivers natural gas to more than 607,000 businesses and households via 9,900 km of gas pipelines in a network area (60,000 sq km) in outer western metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria's west.