Media Release

Natural Gas Forum Sparks Local Interest

Around 100 people attended a community forum in Winchelsea on 23 July to learn more about SP AusNet's natural gas project.

The project will see Winchelsea residents and businesses connected to natural gas before winter 2016.

Representatives from SP AusNet and Surf Coast Shire were on hand to answer questions, following a presentation from SP AusNet Program Manager, Geoff Thorn.

Mr Thorn said the attendance and nature of questions indicated a solid demand for natural gas in the area.

"There was a genuine level of interest and anticipation," he said. "People were keen to know when they could get connected and what they had to do. They could already see the advantages of natural gas."

"They talked about waking up in a warm house, having plenty of hot water, cooking in a wok on a gas stovetop, as well as the lower cost. These things can really make a difference to your day-to-day life," he said.

Mr Thorn acknowledged the State Government's role in bringing natural gas to Winchelsea.

"We're able to connect towns like Winchelsea to natural gas because of the Victorian Government's *Energy for the Regions* program," he said.

"We look forward to connecting more Victorian's to our natural gas network."

"Meanwhile, we'll be doing our best to minimise disruption to the people of Winchelsea during construction. Safety will be our highest priority."

In the last five years, SP AusNet has carried out works costing more than $580m to bring natural gas to more than 92,000 homes and businesses in western Victoria.

SP AusNet has detailed information on its website – www.sp-ausnet.com.au – for each of the towns approved for connection through the *Energy for the Regions* program.

Under the previous State Government's natural gas extension program, SP AusNet connected gas to 12 Victorians towns: Barwon Heads, Camperdown, Creswick, Gisborne, Lancefield, Macedon, Maiden Gully, New Gisborne, Port Fairy, Riddells Creek, Romsey and Woodend.

Ends

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About SP AusNet

SP AusNet is the largest diversified energy network business in Victoria, owning and operating more than $10 billion of electricity and gas distribution assets, including the state-wide electricity transmission network. The company also has a non-regulated division, Select Solutions, providing utility services.

Headquartered in Melbourne, Australia, SP AusNet employs more than 1800 people to service 1.3 million consumers and is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: SPN) and the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX-ST: X04).