



# Media Release

18 February 2009

## Natural Gas ready to flow into South Gippsland

Today Multinet Gas announced that Red Energy will be South Gippsland's first natural gas retailer. As a result, natural gas will be flowing to residents and businesses in the area within weeks.

Multinet Gas and Red Energy will be undertaking new natural gas connections for a small number of residents in Lang Lang and Korumburra in order to trial and bed-down their systems and new connection processes. Once this trial is completed, all other residents and businesses with a natural gas service already installed will be advised about how they can make their gas connection.

Residents and businesses in Lang Lang, Korumburra and Leongatha (the towns where pipeline construction has already been completed) and in Wonthaggi and Inverloch (where construction is ongoing) and who do not have a gas service will be advised about how they can arrange connection and the incentives available to them if they make the switch to natural gas.

Multinet Gas CEO Hugh Gleeson said he was delighted that the long process of planning, public consultation, construction and securing Red Energy as the area's first natural gas retailer was now completed to a stage where thousands of people could use natural gas for the first time.

"The construction and negotiation process is now complete for thousands of people who have been waiting patiently for this day for some time. Natural gas is safe, convenient, environmentally friendly and economical and very important for the continued development and growth of towns in the area. Now that Red Energy is on board, up to 10,000 businesses and residents will soon benefit from this project.

"The Victorian Government, in particular the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Victoria, is to be commended for their support of this project," Mr Gleeson said.

Jemena East is Multinet Gas's primary contractor, responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance of the new gas network. Jemena Marketing Manager James Wong said that after long and complex negotiations to secure a retailer, it was now all systems go.

"With Red Energy now in place, we have started to inform people about how they can access natural gas. I will be in Lang Lang, Korumburra and Leongatha over the coming weeks and months explaining the connection process and what incentives we are making available to encourage people to make the switch to natural gas," Mr Wong said.

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Residents and business owners who would like to arrange a gas connection are encouraged to do so by undertaking the following:

1. Ensure that natural gas is available in their street and location by visiting [www.multinetgas.com.au](http://www.multinetgas.com.au).
2. Apply to Red Energy on **131 806** for a gas service and retail supply contract, who will arrange for Jemena (on behalf of Multinet Gas) to install that service.
  - a. Jemena will plan the service via its contractor and install the new gas service (usually within 20 working days).
  - b. If the residence is less than 20 metres from the front boundary, there will no cost involved. If, however, the residence is more than 20 metres, then the installation will be assessed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether a cost will be involved.
3. Arrange a qualified gas fitter to assess the suitability of their appliances/fitting line and/or arrange conversion to natural gas as applicable. The gas fitter will issue a certificate of compliance for the installation when completed
4. The gas fitter/resident will coordinate with Red Energy to arrange a meter fix.
5. Jemena will then install the gas meter and the gas fitter will arrange final connection.

Residents can ring 1300 131 689 (Mon-Fri 8.30am- 5.30pm) for further queries.

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