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Speech at Natural Gas Ceremony, Peterborough

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, AT NATURAL GAS CEREMONY,
PETERBOROUGH.

29.9.72

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR INVITING ME HERE TODAY TO TAKE PART IN
A CEREMONY AS SIGNIFICANT FOR THE PETERBOROUGH AREA AS THIS ONE.

THE CONNECTION OF PETERBOROUGH WITH THE MOOMBA-ADELAIDE PIPELINE
WILL PROVIDE A MOST USEFUL FILLIP TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PETERBOROUGH
AND THE AREA AROUND IT.

IT'S A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN ITSELF. ESTIMATES ARE THAT THE
POWER STATION IN THE FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION WILL USE SOME 40-
MILLION CUBIC FEET OF GAS. BUT DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT STOP THERE.
THE DEMANDS OF THE POWER STATION ITSELF ARE EXPECTED TO GROW
STEADILY WITH AN ANTICIPATED CONSUMPTION OF 80-MILLION CUBIC FEET
IN THE TENTH YEAR.

2.

OTHER POTENTIAL MARKETS FOR NATURAL GAS HERE COME FROM THE MEAT
WORKS, THE HOSPITAL AND THE RAILWAYS.

I WAS INTERESTED ALSO TO HEAR THAT THE COUNCIL IS ALREADY INVESTI-
GATING THE POSSIBILITY OF DOMESTIC RETICULATION.

A MAJOR FACTOR ENABLING THIS DEVELOPMENT TO TAKE PLACE HAS BEEN
THE CAREFUL PLANNING AND FORETHOUGHT THAT HAS GONE INTO IT.

THE PROBABLE NEED TO SUPPLY GAS TO PETERBOROUGH WAS FORESEEN WHEN
THE MAIN 22-INCH PIPELINE TO ADELAIDE WAS LAID AND PROVISION WAS
MADE FOR IT WHEN THE LINE WAS BUILT IN 1969.

THE PRODUCER COMPANIES COMPLETED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PETERBOROUGH
MUNICIPALITY LATE LAST YEAR, AND FOLLOWING AGREEMENT OF THE PIPELINE
AUTHORITY ON THE ROUTE, CONSTRUCTION BEGAN LAST APRIL.

THE MUNICIPALITY, THE AUTHORITY, THE PRODUCING COMPANIES AND THE
CONTRACTORS ARE ALL TO BE CONGRATULATED ON A MOST SMOOTH AND EFFICIENT
OPERATION.

THIS LINK PUTS PETERBOROUGH ON STREAM WITH THE MOST RAPIDLY DEVELOPING OF OUR NATURAL ENERGY RESOURCES, AND SPECIFICALLY WITH THE MASSIVE DEPOSITS OF THE COOPER BASIN.

THE PROPER EXPLOITATION OF THIS RESOURCE HAS ALREADY PROVED A BOON TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA - AS I'M SURE IT WILL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS.

BEYOND THIS WE CAN ALSO NOW LOOK TO THE EXPORT OF GAS TO NEW SOUTH WALES - I'D ADD HERE THAT, DESPITE A FEW PRESENT PROBLEMS, I AM CONFIDENT THIS PROJECT WILL GO AHEAD AND WILL PROVE A GREAT SUCCESS.

I AM ALSO HOPEFUL THAT, IN ADDITION TO GUARANTEED SUPPLIES OF GAS TO THOSE MARKETS, WE CAN LOOK TO THE COOPER BASIN TO PROVIDE BOTH OIL AND NATURAL GAS LIQUIDS.

THIS, IN TURN WILL, I BELIEVE, LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT WITHIN SOUTH AUSTRALIA OF A PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND ADDITIONAL REFINING CAPACITY.

WE CAN LOOK EVEN BEYOND THIS SHORT-TO-MEDIUM TERM PROSPECT TO FURTHER DISCOVERIES.

IT SEEMS TO ME MOST UNLIKELY, CONSIDERING THE VAST AREA OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, THAT THE COOPER BASIN WILL PROVE OUR SOLE PETROLEUM AREA

I BELIEVE THAT FURTHER INTENSIVE EXPLORATION WILL GIVE US ADDITIONAL DISCOVERIES AT LEAST AS VALUABLE TO OUR FUTURE PROSPERITY AS THE MOOMBA-GIDGEALPA FIELD.

PLAINLY OUR RESOURCES ARE NOT INFINITE AND OBVIOUSLY WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GIVE THE MOST CAREFUL STUDY TO THE FORMULATION OF ENERGY POLICIES WHICH TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE UTILISATION OF A FINITE AND DWINDLING RESOURCE.

OUR PRESENT OVERALL ENERGY RESERVES AND FUTURE POTENTIAL, HOWEVER, PUT US IN A MOST FORTUNATE POSITION IN AUSTRALIA IN GIVING US TIME TO DEVELOP THE NECESSARY LONG RANGE POLICIES.

MR. MAYOR, IT IS EVIDENT FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN AND BEEN TOLD TODAY THAT THE SUCCESS OF THIS PARTICULAR PROJECT IS DUE IN LARGE MEASURE TO THE EFFORTS OF YOU AND YOUR MUNICIPALITY IN THE WAY IN WHICH THE NECESSARY NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED.

I'M SURE THAT THE SAME CAREFUL ENTHUSIASM WILL BE GIVEN TO THE EXTENSION OF NATURAL GAS SUPPLIES BEYOND THE POWER STATION AND I NOW HAVE VERY MUCH PLEASURE IN UNVEILING THE PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE FORMALLY THE ARRIVAL OF NATURAL GAS.

THANK YOU.