



SEN
Sustainable Energy Now

MYTH BUSTERS

Natural Gas

MYTH: NATURAL GAS IS A CLEAN ENERGY SOURCE AND IS IMPORTANT IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION



Natural Gas - Facts

Natural gas, also known as methane, is a potent greenhouse gas with a Global Warming Potential over 20 years 84 times as much as Carbon Dioxide.

Methane use produces approximately the same amount of global warming as burning coal to make electricity when the full supply chain is considered.

Further, there is no evidence that Australian gas exports displace the use of coal globally [as a recent CSIRO report for Woodside demonstrated](#).

Proponents of natural gas argue that natural gas is a **transition fuel** to a energy system dominated by renewable energy. This argument is faulty because:

- The choice is not between one fossil fuel (coal) and another (gas), the choice is between fossil fuels and renewable energy
- Natural gas use produces approximately the same amount of greenhouse gases as coal when the complete supply chain from gas reservoir to final burner is considered
- Natural gas is a fuel that is used less and less during the transition, firmed renewable energy can supply the bulk of the energy required



Natural Gas - Facts

Although the combustion of methane produces approximately 50% less CO₂ than burning coal at the point of combustion, greenhouse gas emissions during the natural gas extraction, processing and transport lifecycle add significantly to pollution in the following ways:

- Venting of CO₂ removed during gas processing - CO₂ may be present in high concentrations in some gas reservoirs such as Barossa and Browse;
- Methane is burned as a fuel gas to power compressors and power generators in the processing, liquefaction, transport and regassification processes;
- Flaring and venting of gas;
- Fugitive emissions from leaking valves, pipework and process equipment;
- Fuel consumption during the transport of gas by pipeline;
- Emission of methane into the atmosphere during processing and transport.