Media Release

Castlemaine gas network upgrade finished

SP AusNet has finished upgrading 14.5 kilometres of Castlemaine's underground natural gas network that will improve the supply reliability for residents and businesses.

For the last 12 month, SP AusNet's $1.75 million project involved replacing aged low-pressure gas mains with high-pressure polyethylene mains servicing approximately 800 properties throughout the town.

SP AusNet Manager Gas Networks, Elias Raffoul, 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 high-pressure mains for customers in our gas network throughout central and western Victoria," Mr Raffoul said.

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

"We'd like to thank the local community for their patience and understanding while we transitioned Castlemaine to a high-pressure gas network," he said.

In the last 12 months, SP AusNet replaced 126 kilometres of low-pressure mains with high-pressure mains, commissioned 147 kilometres of new gas mains and connected 13,825 new customers.

"This replacement program and other initiatives have helped to reduce the minutes off supply for our gas customers by 16.5 per cent, down from 1.06 to 0.91 minutes," Mr Raffoul said.

Importantly, anyone planning any excavation is encouraged to contact Dial Before You Dig to source the location of underground infrastructure – pipes, cables – along with advice on how to work safely in the vicinity those assets.

Dial Before You Dig enquiries can be lodged online at www.1100.com.au, by using its iPhone app or by ringing the national call centre on 1100 during business hours.

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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 620,000 businesses and households via 10,000 km of gas pipelines in a network area (60,000 sq km) in outer western metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria's west.

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