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GORILLAS IN THE MIST

One of the great things about Australia's pipeline industry and the Australian Pipeline and Gas Association is the passion and dedication of the people in it. I am constantly inspired by the effort people put in, well over and above their paid work, to ensure this industry is as informed, safe and effective as it can be.

At the 2021 virtual convention, one of the industry's long-term contributors shared his thoughts on, and concerns with, current practice in the industry in the paper titled 'Gorillas in the Mist'. This prompted a lot of discussion across industry and the APGA Board felt it warranted a response to sit beside it on record, which it asked the Executive of the Pipeline Operators Group (POG) to provide. The author of Gorillas in the Mist subsequently replied to the Executive of POG in writing.

What follows is the paper and presentation of Gorillas in the Mist, the POG Executive's response and the follow-up by the author. The material is presented to the Association in recognition that debate is healthy and can lead to improved outcomes. The views expressed in the papers are the views of the authors and APGA publishing these views does not imply agreement with or acceptance of them.

The paper and the responses have been discussed at the highest levels across industry and I am sure the conversation will continue in the years ahead.

It's important to recognise that, while debate and discussions on critical topics can sometimes be uncomfortable, when it comes to the topics covered across these papers everyone in the industry wants the same thing – the continuation of Australia's outstanding safety record regarding the construction and operation of high-pressure gas pipelines. Our industry can make a great contribution to the energy transition over the coming decades and it is essential to our social license that we continue to operate safely and reliably.

I'd also like to acknowledge it has taken some time to get all this information published and for that I apologise.

As always, the Secretariat is very happy to hear from anyone who would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve Davies', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

STEVE DAVIES
Chief Executive Officer