

17 November 2016

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10am

Winchelsea Community now Cooking with Gas

Winchelsea's first connection to the mains gas supply was officially commissioned today, when natural gas flowed into the home of local resident Sue Clissold.

AusNet Services' new underground gas network in Winchelsea is now giving homes and businesses in the town a cost effective and convenient energy supply.

AusNet Services began construction to extend its underground gas pipeline into Winchelsea in 2014.

With commissioning now complete, AusNet Services' Manager Gas Networks, Elias Raffoul, said residents wishing to connect to the natural gas network should act now to be early recipients of natural gas.

"We estimate that more than 600 Winchelsea residents and businesses now have access to natural gas. By connecting, they can enjoy the benefits of natural gas for cooking, heating and hot water systems, replacing the need to use bottled gas, electricity, and fire wood," Mr Raffoul said.

Ms Clissold said she had arranged to include gas pipes when building her new house recently.

"Mains gas is cheaper and cleaner, so it made sense to prepare for its arrival in Winchelsea when we built," she said. "It's early days, but I love the convenience and flexibility of natural gas," she said.

Mr Raffoul thanked the local community for accommodating AusNet Services' crews while the network was constructed.

"We've done it safely, without incident, and minimising disruption as much as we could," he said.

Before gas can be used, a service pipe from the street to the house and any internal pipes must be installed, and a gas meter fitted.

AusNet Services' has detailed information on its website – www.ausnetservices.com.au – for consumers wanting to connect to the gas network.

"We thank the State Government for helping bring natural gas to Winchelsea through the *Energy for the Regions* and the *Regional Gas Infrastructure* programs and we look forward to connecting more Victorians to natural gas," Mr Raffoul said.

In the last five years, AusNet Services has extended the natural gas network in western Victoria to more than 92,000 homes and businesses. We expect to invest more than \$500m in the gas network over the next five years.

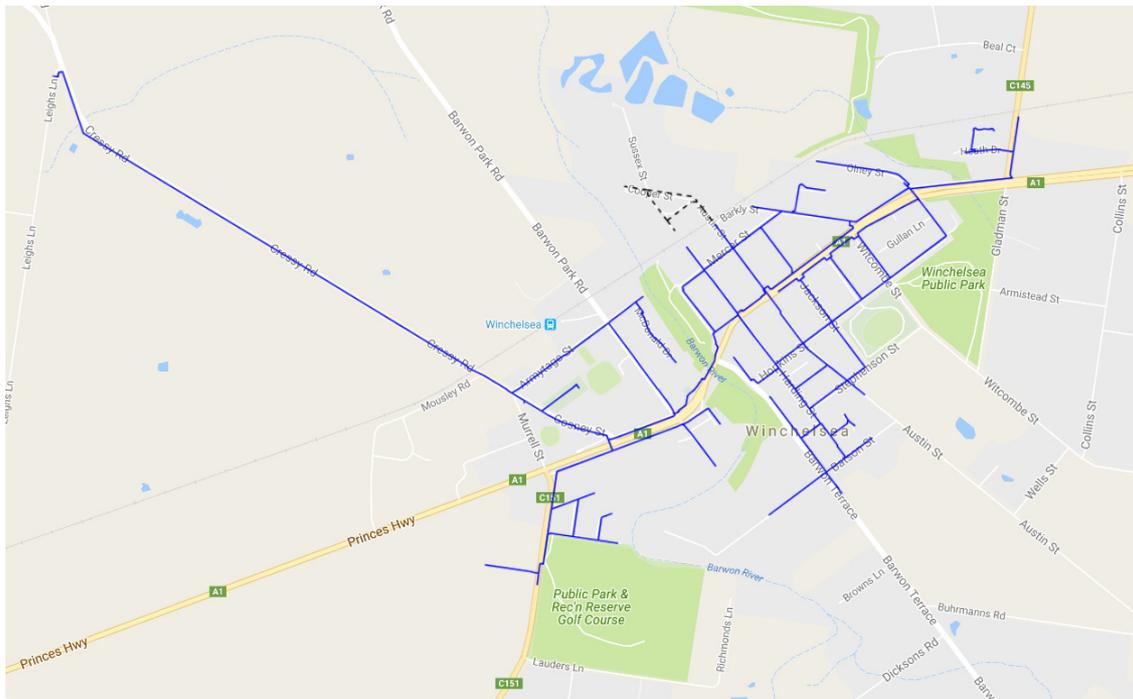
Under past State Government natural gas extension programs, AusNet Services connected gas to 12 Victorian towns: Barwon Heads, Camperdown, Creswick, Gisborne, Lancefield, Macedon, Maiden Gully, New Gisborne, Port Fairy, Riddells Creek, Romsey and Woodend. Winchelsea joins Huntly as the second of four towns to be connected to the main Victorian natural gas grid under the current program. Avoca and Bannockburn are also expected to be connected early in 2017.

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Media Release



THE WINCHELSEA GAS NETWORK



Ends

PHOTOS OF THE LAUNCH AVAILABLE AFTER THE EVENT – CONTACT AUSNET SERVICES MEDIA RELATIONS

About AusNet Services

AusNet Services is Victoria's largest energy delivery service, owning and operating approximately \$11 billion of electricity and gas distribution assets that connect into more than 1.3 million Victorian homes and businesses.

Based in Melbourne, AusNet Services employs more than 2,200 people, including its Select Solutions and Geomatic Technologies businesses, and is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: AST) and Singapore Exchange.

For more information visit AusNet Services' website, www.ausnetservices.com.au.