Key findings from the Gas Supply and Demand Scenarios 2012-2027 report include:

On gas supply:

- New Zealand's gas supply position is stronger than it has been for many years, driven by the highest level of exploration effort seen for a long time, which in turn has been driven by high oil prices.
- Greater gas availability in recent years has been reflected in softer wholesale gas prices relative to earlier levels (albeit above the 'low gas price' scenario). Current indications are that these conditions are likely to continue for some years.

On gas demand:

- Long-term gas demand in New Zealand is likely to vary significantly between the different price scenarios, ranging from 250 PJ/year in the low price scenario down to 75 PJ/year in the high price scenario.
- The sectors most sensitive to changes in wholesale gas prices are petrochemical manufacturing (especially methanol production) and power generation. The demand variability in response to gas prices – and therefore supply – acts as a 'shock-absorber' to the gas market, providing a volume market for gas when it is plentiful and relatively inexpensive, but reducing demand if reserves become scarce. This helps to underpin gas exploration and development activity and can provide a buffer to extend the remaining life of existing resources if reserves to production ratios start to decline.
- Gas demand for other industrial, commercial and residential users is relatively steady across the scenarios, reflecting the relatively strong competitive position of gas versus alternative fuels for the provision of energy services.

On pipeline investment issues:

- The existing pipeline system is expected to have sufficient capacity to accommodate the projected scenarios with higher demand, with the exception of Vector's northern pipeline system (from central Waikato northwards), which has already reached its capacity limit during peak weeks, and it appears that some potential new gas demand is being suppressed in this region through an inability to secure pipeline capacity.
- However, some gas users (e.g. power generators) appear to have relatively low cost options to reduce their usage during peak demand periods. If this potential can be harnessed, the need for costly new investment could be deferred for many years.