



information

Headline: Air Liquide Australia Plans to Prioritise Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Supply

Melbourne, Tuesday 6th December 2011.

The latest unexpected delays to the restart of the major Kooragang Island chemical complex in New South Wales will result in CO₂ supply shortage in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

Air Liquide Australia plans to prioritise the supply of CO₂ to industry. Priority allocation of pure CO₂ will be given to *essential services* such as potable water treatment, blood transport and medical gases.

Air Liquide Australia, a leading industrial gas provider, obtains raw CO₂ from Kooragang Island. The raw carbon dioxide then undergoes purification at Air Liquide's production units, and subsequently liquefaction before delivery to a gamut of industries ranging from food and beverage, utilities, medical and hospitality amongst others.

Since June this year, raw supply from Kooragang Island has been unavailable, prompting Air Liquide to draw down on its inventory and importing from its plants in other states.

Air Liquide is the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment, and is present in 80 countries with 43,600 employees. Oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen and rare gases have been at the core of Air Liquide's activities since its creation in 1902. Using these molecules, Air Liquide continuously reinvents its business, anticipating the needs of current and future markets. The Group innovates to enable progress, to achieve dynamic growth and a consistent performance.

Air Liquide combines many products and technologies to develop valuable applications and services not only for its customers but also for society. These include **innovative technologies** that curb polluting emissions, lower industry's energy use, recover and reuse natural resources or develop the energies of tomorrow, such as hydrogen, biofuels or photovoltaic energy... Oxygen for hospitals, homecare, fighting nosocomial infections...

A partner for the long term, Air Liquide relies on employee commitment, customer trust and shareholder support to pursue its vision of sustainable, competitive growth. The **diversity** of Air Liquide's teams, businesses, markets and geographic presence provides a solid and sustainable base for its development and strengthens its ability to push back its own limits, conquer new territories and build its future.

Air Liquide explores the best that air can offer to preserve life, staying true to its sustainable development approach. In 2010, the Group's revenues amounted to **€ 13.5 billion**, of which more than 80% were generated outside France. Air Liquide is listed on the Paris Euronext stock exchange (compartment A) and is a member of the CAC 40 and Dow Jones Euro Stoxx 50 indexes.