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Gas Pipeline Work on Schedule

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PRESS STATEMENT.

BY THE PREMIER, HON. DON DUNSTAN,
Q.C., M.P.

GAS PIPELINE WORK ON SCHEDULE.

Technical planning of the Gidgealpa-Moomba to Adelaide natural gas pipeline had virtually been completed on schedule, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, announced today.

This week the Natural Gas Pipelines Authority, through its Engineering Consultants, Bechtel Pacific Corporation Limited, will be inviting tenders for approximately 84,500 tons of pipe for construction of the 486-mile pipeline - the longest natural gas pipeline in Australia.

Mr. Dunstan said that bids would be sought from the major pipe manufacturers in Europe, North America and Japan, as well as from Australian manufacturers.

Increase in Capacity:

The exciting discoveries in recent weeks of substantially increased reserves of natural gas at the fields has resulted in the Authority instructing its Engineering Consultants and its own technical staff to carry out a re-examination of the engineering design of the pipeline system which had been developed on the basis of using an 18" diameter pipe for the main pipeline. As a result of these investigations, the Authority reached the conclusion that South Australia would be provided with a much more efficient gas pipeline system if the diameter of the pipe in the main pipeline to Adelaide were increased from 18" to 22". By increasing the carrying capacity of the pipeline, the unit cost of transporting the natural gas can be appreciably reduced.

The technical specification will therefore call for pipe manufacturers to supply 22" O.D. X52 D.S.A. .312 W.T. pipe. This is also a specification which the Australian pipe manufacturers should be able to meet.

Installation Contract:

The Natural Gas Pipelines Authority will also very shortly invite tenders for the laying and installation of the main pipeline and laterals. These will also be sought on an international basis.

The Authority has been approached by a number of overseas construction organizations which have had considerable success in building pipelines in other parts of the world. A number of these organizations have expressed keen interest in the South Australian construction project and they will be officially invited to tender for the construction. Notwithstanding these arrangements, no Australian construction organization will be excluded from bidding for the construction of the pipeline.

Whilst the Authority would not lay down a mandatory requirement that there should be substantial Australian participation in the construction of the pipeline, it is nevertheless most anxious to see that full use is made of Australian skills and resources. It has conferred with the Executive of the Australian Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors and arranged that the names and addresses of all overseas construction organizations which have expressed an interest in the South Australian programme be made available to the Federation. By this means it is hoped that Australian organizations will make known to the overseas tenderers their respective capacity to contribute to the construction programme either as Joint Venturers or as major sub-contractors. Further, the overseas organizations are being required by the Authority to indicate in their tenders the extent to which they intend to use Australian labour and materials in the project.

The actual construction of the pipeline is scheduled to commence on 1st September, 1968, and to be completed by 31st July, 1969. This will enable the exhaustive testing necessary of the pipeline prior to the delivery of natural gas to the metropolitan area in mid-September, 1969.
