Resource Development Minister Paul Henderson this morning told the assembled who’s who of the oil and gas industry that gas must come onshore from the Giant Greater Sunrise gas field in the Timor Sea.

Mr Henderson added that Shell’s proposal to build a floating Liquified Natural Gas (FLNG) plant over the field was not the only viable commercial option.

Hosting a breakfast session at the Australian Petroleum Production And Exploration Association (APPEA) conference in Adelaide, Mr Henderson said “Phillips Petroleum’s belief that its plan for a domestic gas development for Sunrise offers a number of commercial and national advantages over FLNG is music to my ears”.

The theme of this year’s APPEA conference is Breaking Through to Our Future – Find More Oil – Use More Gas.

"Australia is facing an energy shortage," Mr Henderson said.

"We need to manage our resources for the benefit of all Australians to create jobs, industry and economic growth."