

Conventional and Unconventional



Conventional and Unconventional are industry terms used to define where gas is found underground and how it's extracted.



It's the same gas (natural gas reserves are mostly methane with some propane, butane and light condensates) - the main difference is how it occurs in nature today.

Conventional gas has typically migrated from where it formed millions of years ago to a sandstone reservoir where it's trapped between porous grains under a denser layer of rock that acts as a cap or seal.

Unconventional gas is typically extracted from where it formed, in coal seams or shale formations that can be less porous and are sometimes described as tighter.

Extracting gas from either source can require a range of different techniques and processes.

It's a common misunderstanding that conventional reserves do not require fracture stimulation and unconventional reserves do.

For example, around a third of conventional wells in the Mereenie field near Alice Springs have been fraced.

Less than a quarter of Origin's unconventional coal seam gas wells in Queensland are fraced.

