

Gas infrastructure advice submission - 102

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Stakeholder group/interest: none

Q1. Do you have any further information, evidence, or concerns that you wish to raise in relation to the scenario design and analysis?

Household gas consumption could be better served by electrification while others such as hard to abate industries might need zero emissions fuels.

The recent IPCC report warns that we must cut emissions by 75% this decade and reach zero emissions within fifteen years to have any chance of keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius thus ensuring a safe, healthy climate future for all.

Gas must be phased out as soon as possible for the world to have any hope of achieving this goal.

Q2. Do you have any further information or evidence that can help identify an optimum scenario for a net zero emissions gas sector in 2050?

2050 is too late. We must aim to achieve zero emissions by 2035.

Efficient electric appliances are already cheaper than gas.

Natural gas must be rapidly phased out and no new infrastructure built.

Q3. What policies and/or regulations, if any, are needed to support the development of low carbon pathways such as biogas, green hydrogen, and carbon capture and storage?

Alternatives such as biogas and green hydrogen are expensive and projected to remain expensive for decades and the impact on Victorians should be properly assessed.

Carbon Capture and storage is a failing technology and will not help to achieve zero emissions by 2035.

Q4. What is your view on the best ways to maintain the reliability and affordability of Victoria's gas supply if natural gas use declines?

Incentives should be offered to Victorians to convert their households from gas to electric.

The focus must be on the best and quickest way to get to zero emissions. It is urgent that we power the transition away from natural gas with clean energy and electrifications.

Q5. What else can you tell us about the implications of decarbonisation pathways for the electricity generation, transmission and distribution networks?

Targeted or zonal electrification to reduce the gas distribution infrastructure could ameliorate the impacts of the gas transition on users, but further research would be needed to comprehend the scope, scale, speed and challenges of trying to manage gas distribution system costs through a gas phase out.

Q6. How can the use of Victoria's existing gas infrastructure be optimised during the transition to net zero emissions, over the short (10 years), medium (20 years) and long-term (30+ years)? How can the Victorian Government assist in this?

It is crucial that the importance of optimizing the use of existing gas infrastructure is not prioritized over ensuring a fair and rapid transition.

Q7. What principles should apply or what measures will be needed to manage the impacts of gas decarbonisation on households and businesses?

Just transition. It is crucial that the transition improves the standing of vulnerable Victorians to reduce energy poverty in the state.

A key measure would be to carry on an education campaign, so Victorians learn about the impacts of gas on their budgets, health and on the environment, and the advantages of other sources of energy such as electrification.

Q8. What policies, programs and/or regulations should the Victorian Government consider or expand to encourage households, commercial buildings and small businesses to reduce their gas use?

Plumbing regulations need to be updated so no new development is forced to connect to the gas network and no Victorian is forced to use gas appliances.

The Victorian government should commit to building all electric social housing.

A plan to require new buildings to be all electric should be developed to ensure that new buildings in Victoria are fully powered by electricity.

Q9. What policies, regulations or other support, if any, do you think are needed to support industrial users to switch from natural gas to lower emissions energy sources or chemical feedstocks?

Incentives.

Mandatory implementation of efficiency measures that have a payback period of 3 years or less.

Carbon taxes.

How would you like your submission treated?

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