

Gas infrastructure advice submission – 113

Date submitted: Aug 13, 2021, 6:10 PM

Name: [REDACTED]

Stakeholder group/interest: Victorian citizen

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

The recently released IPCC report makes the timelines for required action very clear: we have only a very few years left before we must see a clear and significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions. We simply do not have enough time for scenarios B, C or D.

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?

The Alternative Technology Association report (Household Fuel of Choice, 2018) showed that efficient electric appliances were already cheaper than gas. Moving to scenario A will lead to lower costs for consumers. This fact will also help in providing encouragement for change.

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?

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?

I think we could phase out the use of gas by geographical location. These could be prioritised by a number of factors such as cost of gas supply, the logistics of the gas network, ease of supply of additional electrical power, and stated willingness to change (established by consumer consultation).

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

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?

By prioritising the transition of the parts of the network where maintenance and logistics are most difficult or expensive.

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

Justice, fairness, consultation and open-ness. Something similar to the approach used for the North-East Link.

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?

Planning schemes and building codes need to be updated urgently.

Programs to encourage change-over from gas to electrical (eg boilers to heat pumps) should commence as quickly as possible so as to start a positive momentum.

Specific measures aimed at ensuring the biggest users of gas start to change ahead of the rest will provide a 'quick win' and also provide a clear and positive message via public announcements.

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?

How would you like your submission treated?

Published, but my name removed