

Submission template

Date submitted: Jul 19, 2021, 04:57 PM

Name: [REDACTED]

Stakeholder group/interest: Concerned Citizen and science graduate

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

Paragraph 2 of the Executive summary contains some very contestable assumptions about the role of CO₂ in the warming of the climate.

1. "When natural gas is burnt to generate heat and energy, another greenhouse gas – carbon dioxide – is released." But so is a far more potent greenhouse gas - H₂O-WATER VAPOUR.
2. This so-called mean average temperature rise is often quoted as an undesirable phenomenon. Global average temperatures were several degrees higher in previous millennia between ice ages when humanity prospered, and rapid progress was made in the living standards of humans.
3. Projections are not evidence and the real situation world-wide shows that these "extreme events" have been getting rarer as natural levels of CO₂ continue to rise.
4. Global cooling is a very real possibility if the cycles in the fossil records and recent records are considered. This will pose a much more a "serious risk to the health and future prosperity of all Victorians."
5. The energy source with the cleanest and lowest CO₂ emissions is NUCLEAR. This not even considered so clearly the authors are spooked by left/greens politics.
6. None of the benefits of higher atmospheric CO₂ that accrue in e.g. photosynthesis and plant yield (and the ability to feed an expanding population) even get a mention.

There is plenty of expert evidence to suggest a positive role for increasing the concentration of CO₂, so there is no point in pursuing a "zero emissions economy" at great cost to energy prices and our standard of living.

I see this whole exercise as a waste of government resources and the public's time and energy unless you publish all sides of the debate.

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?

CARBON DIOXIDE - The good news

Indur M. Goklany 2015

<https://www.thegwpf.com/content/uploads/2015/10/benefits1.pdf>

The Positive Impact of Human CO₂ Emissions on the Survival of Life on Earth

Patrick Moore, PhD, March 2015

<http://ecosense.me/ecosense-wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/CO2-Emissions.pdf>

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?

Be very careful to obtain unbiased reports on the cradle-to-grave costs vs. benefits of these unreliable power sources (wind, solar, tidal, etc.) including the infrastructure to distribute them and the losses in storage of excess when available at low cost.

Hydrogen is a very dangerous gas and hard to contain and transfer. Weigh the risk against zero benefit if CO2 has such a minimal effect on climate.

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?

Remove all bans on exploration methods in areas other than environmentally sensitive waters and bushland.

Allow the market to make investment decisions without government subsidies (higher prices or carbon taxes)

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

The only truly green energy source is NUCLEAR. Lift bans and encourage replacing of coal fired plants with nuclear. This will minimize distribution network costs.

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?

If supplies will be curtailed, cease connection to new estates. Call for voluntary disconnection in local areas where 75% of households are willing to pay the price for heat pump technology. No subsidies.

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

No subsidies. Let the market do it.

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

Tell consumers the truth about the total costs and environmental issues associated with each form of energy.

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?

If we are to revitalize our manufacturing economy we must have a cheap and abundant source of gas. Removing government intervention will greatly enhance this cause. Get rid of green tape. Legislate for real pollution abatement not plant food CO2.

How would you like your submission treated?

Published, but my name removed