

Submission template

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

Name: [REDACTED]

Stakeholder group/interest: Not affiliated with any stakeholders

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

I'm concerned by the lack of willingness to eradicate natural gas as an energy source. It is an irredeemable, outmoded form of energy production grounded in old technologies. Evidence continues to mount as to the dangers of gas, not just in its climate change-exacerbating emissions, but also in its possible connection to respiratory illness. There is also the enormous risk of disastrous consequences for gas users, such as carbon monoxide poisoning, and gas explosions. It is problematic that the discourse around gas assumes it to be a non-negotiable aspect of future energy production. The time for fossil fuels has ended: renewables are the only way forward.

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 optimum scenario is that the gas sector no longer exists by 2050.

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?

Until systems such as carbon capture are proven to actually function as claimed, it is far more effective to require a reduction in emissions while protecting and rehabilitating native ecosystems.

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?

Gas use must decline if net zero emissions are to be reached by 2050. So that it does not unfairly impact vulnerable communities, they must be prioritised for support to transition to 100% renewable energy sources in their homes.

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?

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

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?

It is urgent that the building code be altered so that gas connections are no longer mandated for newly built dwellings in Victoria. This code clearly benefits the gas sector at the expense of the consumer and the environment.

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