

Submission template

Date submitted: Jul 29, 2021, 09:34 PM

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Stakeholder group/interest: Citizen

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

I do not see how the gas sector can realistically be phased out by 2050 so the only way the sector can be net zero is if compensating carbon sequestration is achieved. On a wider perspective, even a global achievement of net zero by 2050 across all sectors and countries is no longer sufficient to stop climate change. We have left it too late. Climate change multipliers such as reducing reflection of solar radiation from lost ice, and release of trapped methane deposits, will mean earth continues to warm even in a net zero scenario.

We have now reached a stage where the target must be sequester carbon so that emissions are “net negative.” Fossil fuel suppliers such as gas should be required to sequester more carbon than they release. Urgent attention should be given to the means to achieve this. For example, I understand that Victoria has considerable resources of accessible olivine (and similar) rock which, if crushed, efficiently absorbs carbon through natural weathering processes. This crushed rock also improves soil for agriculture, a “win-win”.

See R.D.Schuling and Tickell, O., Olivine against climate change and ocean acidification

<http://www.innovationconcepts.eu/res/literatuurSchuling/olivineagainstclimatechange23.pdf>

Schuling, R. (2014) Climate Change and CO2 Removal from the Atmosphere. Natural Science, 6, 659-663. doi: 10.4236/ns.2014.69065.

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?

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?

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?

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 with my name