

Online email: [REDACTED]

16 August 2021

Re: Victoria's Gas Substitution Roadmap Consultation Paper

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the consultation paper on Victoria's Gas Substitution Roadmap.

Bass Coast Shire Council joined a growing movement of councils leading the nation in declaring a climate emergency, recognising the severe risk that climate change poses to the safety of the entire Bass Coast community, that immediate and urgent action is required to reduce our emissions, build community resilience against the local impacts of climate change and ultimately reverse global warming. Bass Coast Shire is committed to doing everything it can to solve the challenge of climate change. As a region renowned for its natural beauty and productive land, it is critical to take rapid action to protect our natural assets, maintain Bass Coast's unique environment, and secure a liveable and healthy future for our community.

Together, the community and Council have set a strong vision for Bass Coast set out in the [Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2030](#) and targets a more resilient and connected community, with a shared target of zero net emissions by 2030. Bass Coast Shire Council welcomes the development of a roadmap to transitioning away from gas as a fossil fuel and towards a net zero emissions energy system.

Supporting the submission made by the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) and Victorian Greenhouse Alliances (VGA), Bass Coast confirms the central three principles of their collective responses:

- **Prioritise the speed of the transition** – recognising the urgency required to mitigate the impacts of climate change, and that action should not be delayed when there are cost-effective solutions available today.
- **Seize the economic opportunity** – the gas transition presents enormous opportunities to expand the clean energy industry, generate jobs, boost economic productivity, and position Victoria as a leader in clean energy technology.
- **Ensure the transition is just, socially inclusive and equitable** – ensure the benefits of the transition are shared equitably and that the costs are not unduly borne by vulnerable communities and those least able to afford it.

If you have any questions or queries relating to this submission or the work Bass Coast Shire Council is undertaking, please contact Benita Russell, Climate Change and Sustainability Advisor at

[REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Kind Regards

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