

Gas infrastructure advice submission – 99

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Stakeholder group/interest: Environment spokesperson, Association of Rabbis and Cantors of Australia, Australian Religious Response to Climate Change member

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

Yes - frankly the idea of gas as a 'clean fuel' or even a 'transition fuel' is 20 years out of date. Because unburnt gas is primarily methane, and that is very many times more potent than CO₂, albeit with a somewhat shorter half-life, the key (but conveniently overlooked) question is regarding 'fugitive emissions' (ie unburnt gas).

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?

There should be NO plans and ABSOLUTELY NO SUBSIDIES for ANY NEW GAS

Summary from July 2018 study for Melbourne University by Tim Forcey, an independent energy advisor with 30+ years of experience working in industry and in communities, at

<https://renew.org.au/renew-magazine/climate-change/greenhouse-gas-footprint-of-gas/>

says 'Studies in the US have found methane emissions ranging from 2% to 17% of total gas production (1). The amount of methane emanating from the US's largest coal seam gas region is so large it could be seen by a satellite (equipped with the appropriate methane-sensing equipment).

... since in my view there is no chance that fossil gas is a clean, green fuel, we should just focus on energy efficiency measures and fuel-switching from fossils to renewables.

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?

The best policy in my opinion would be REMOVING ALL SUBSIDIES for any net carbon-producing energy: NO GAS, NO COAL, NO OIL, NO HYDROGEN SUBSIDIES EXCEPT FROM RENEWABLES for night-time or transport power. Once this is truly done at all levels, then I believe subsidies can also be rolled back increasingly on renewables, PVs, heat pumps etc, since they will clearly be demonstrated to be cheaper anyway! An exception might be to help set up and subsidise new industries in these fields, and to convert existing industries to renewable power supply.

CCS is a complete furphy and total waste of money. It has still not been proven to work on any industrial scale, and certainly not (and never will be) cost-effective. It is also unproven and uncertain how long CO₂ can actually be trapped underground without leaking out in various ways such as through groundwater and cracks and fissures.

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?

Subsidise and educate people to transition away from it (eg induction hobs are as quick as gas and safer and cleaner). Heat pump hot water and reverse cycle a/c are the same (some central timer/control for heat pumps in a home should be developed/encouraged/subsidised as units can easily be left on inadvertently).

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

The grid needs to be developed to cope with better two-way flow and micro-grid use.

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?

Stop all State subsidies, make sure to buy install as many PVs as roof and parking spaces allow (over offices, residential and parking areas has the extra benefit of reducing the temperature under in the hot weather), and ONLY renewable energy should be purchased, where necessary at all.

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

Help people as necessary to transition to clean energy which will save them money and help to save the climate.

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?

Help them as necessary to transition to clean energy which will save them money and help to save the climate.

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?

Stop purchasing energy or any other products from any organisations that are not committed to transition to net zero emissions.

How would you like your submission treated?

Published with my name