

Submission - Gas Substitution Roadmap –

Recently, based on substantive research and broad consultation, the International Energy Agency reported that it is essential that all countries make major cuts to their carbon emissions, in the current decade. They further identified that we must reach zero emissions far earlier than 2045 and that there should be no new fossil fuel developments – that includes no new gas mines.

In other areas the Victorian Government has indicated that it intends to move to renewables and away from fossil fuels. This needs to happen urgently not some time down the track. All around the world there are increasing environmental disasters and public concern is growing rapidly.

Australia already produces far more gas than we need. We are the world's biggest exporter of gas. So it is astounding that we pay higher gas prices here than do the nations we sell to. More than astounding, it's ludicrous. We subsidise gas consumption in other countries.

We don't need more mining – we need a reservations policy as I believe exists in West Australia. The Victorian Government needs to develop and lobby in that area so we can pay less for domestic gas.

As outlined in the consultation paper, there must be provision for workers and their families whose jobs are lost due to the closing down of the gas industry. No worker should be left without a job or income. Those workers who cannot be redeployed into renewable energy jobs should be fully supported financially while they retrain or reach retirement age.

The moratorium on gas exploration should be reinstated and the export of locally produced gas should be rapidly phased out.

There is only one way to reduce CO2 emissions and that is not to create them. Carbon capture and storage is based on unproven technology and highly likely to be uneconomical. We must not undertake new fossil fuel developments and must rapidly develop new renewable technologies. There may be economic impacts but given the state of the world we have to work with that situation. The alternative is unthinkable.

Thank you for reading my submission.
Mrs Christine Cook