

# **A review of Victoria's electricity and gas network safety framework**

## **Terms of Reference**

The review is intended to examine the safety framework applicable to electricity and gas networks in Victoria.

The review will consider:

- The objectives of the safety framework in Victoria and an assessment of its effectiveness in achieving electricity and gas network safety outcomes.
- The design and adequacy of the safety regulatory obligations (including safety cases and the Electricity Safety Management Scheme), incentives and other arrangements governing energy network businesses and any opportunities for improvement.
- The extent to which the regulatory framework governing network safety ensures effective risk management by energy network businesses.
- The effectiveness of the regulator and governance arrangements in place to monitor and enforce compliance with safety obligations by energy network businesses.
- Any other matters that the Chair considers relevant.

In undertaking the review, the Chair will have regard to:

- Best practice electricity and gas safety and risk management frameworks in other jurisdictions, including nationally and internationally.
- The relationship between the safety regime and the economic regulatory regime to ensure a balance between safety objectives and economic impacts including the cost imposed on consumers.

### **Process**

The review will be conducted by an independent Chair supported by a dedicated secretariat. The Chair may seek expert advice.

The review should be informed by extensive consultation with all relevant stakeholders. This will include public consultation.

### **Outcomes**

The Chair will produce an interim report and a final report and recommendations to be presented to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change by December 2017. Unless specifically excluded, the interim and final report and recommendations will be made publicly available.