

I would like to congratulate the Victorian government on their \$1.6 billion budget allocation for a clean energy transition and their commitment to gas substitution. I ask them to move as quickly as possible to set strong targets and reduce gas use immediately.

Things I would like the Victorian government to include in the roadmap are:

- Short term targets for reduction in Victorian gas use, with a minimum 35% reduction by 2025 and 60% reduction by 2030
- Implementation of key measures which have been identified by experts as reducing gas use most quickly such as incentives and planning measures to facilitate:
 - Replacement of ducted gas heating
 - Installing heat pump hot water
 - Switching to heat pump space heating in commercial buildings
 - Immediate planning law changes to prohibit gas to new buildings
- Best practice efficiency standards to reduce energy demand
- Prioritising solar thermal technology research and development for high process heat requirements and renewable energy and batteries for electrification
- Ensure that strong support is provided for low income and vulnerable Victorians to shift to cheaper, less polluting alternatives than gas

Things I would like the Victorian government to exclude from the roadmap are:

- polluting biomass and biomethane technologies that are risky for the climate and for biodiversity
- carbon capture and storage technology which has been tried and demonstrably failed as a means of abating carbon emissions at scale.
- so-called 'blue hydrogen' from methane gas which is a dirty fuel that has no future in a zero carbon world
- any further gas developments or expansions in Victoria

This is a critical time for energy decision making in Victoria. Victoria is the only place in the world where fracking is banned in the Constitution. And yet this state has the highest household gas use in the country. Half of Victoria's domestic gas use is in space heating alone! What we need from the State Government is an ambitious timetable to accelerate this switch and support clean renewable energy, not polluting gas.