



ADAC

A DIFFERENT APPROACH COMMUNITY Pty Ltd

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Project Office

Victoria's Gas Substitution Roadmap

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ADAC's submission to Victoria's Gas Substitution Roadmap

Submission to the consultation paper on Victoria's Gas Substitution Roadmap (hereafter 'the Roadmap').

About ADAC: ADAC (A Different Approach Community) is a non-partisan group passionate about leaving the environment in the best shape possible so that our children, grandchildren and their children will enjoy the life we have enjoyed. ADAC originated in Geelong, and now has a wide range of members across Australia and is engaging with other Climate groups to encourage a sustainable future for our industries, our economy and our environment.

Science has been telling us for more than thirty years that the world's climate is changing as a result of emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. The planet's reserves of fossil fuels, including gas, are finite. For example, at the current rate of consumption, the world's gas reserves will be depleted by 2060. The transition to renewable energy is therefore inevitable. If managed badly over the next two decades, the damage to our way of life, our environment, and our national security will be irretrievably damaged by the time the transition is complete. Reserves need to be left in the ground.

ADAC is therefore strongly opposed to the proposed gas import terminal in Geelong. We believe it would be unwise to proceed with the terminal for four main reasons:

First, the burning of fossil fuels clearly contributes to global warming. Australia is already an international pariah as evidenced by the July 2021 UN report that ranked Australia last among 170 nations in terms of its response to climate change. The potential for other countries to impose trade sanctions on Australia, including Victoria, is very real.

Second, an investment in such a terminal is short-sighted because it will not be sustainable as gas reserves are depleted. Geelong has already suffered from the demise of a Ford factory involving investment in a dying industry where other economic opportunities were available.

Third, the environment of Corio Bay is at risk because of dredging that might disturb toxic sediments and allow increased chlorine pollution to impact on the seagrasses and the habitats of the internationally recognised Ramsar Wetlands.

Fourth, Geelong has the opportunity to become a significant renewable energy hub. VIVA should commit to such a project. The city already has the infrastructure and the skilled workforce to position

itself as a leader in the growth of renewable energy production. An investment in the dying fossil fuel industry should not be part of this.

Australia and Geelong have a golden opportunity: We are encouraged by a number of plans for Australia's future energy requirements. We note that both the government's policy and the opposition's draft platform acknowledge the importance of reducing carbon emissions and embracing new clean technologies. We are also excited by the developments in Tasmania and in Western Australia towards the production of green hydrogen as a fuel. We firmly believe our nation and Geelong can be a world leader in the area of renewable energy, in the jobs it creates and in a renewed focus on local manufacturing.

In Conclusion:

There is no role for an expansion of the gas industry in Geelong or Victoria.

There is much evidence to support this position on gas:

- We are already committed to a temperature rise of 1.3°C or 1.4°C from past green-house gas emissions, primarily from the combustion of coal, oil and gas.
- Exceeding even 1.5°C will have escalating impacts on Australia e.g., The Great Barrier Reef.
- The combustion of natural gas is now the fastest growing source of carbon dioxide.
- Global methane emissions from fossil fuel sources and from agriculture are accelerating.
- Existing and planned fossil fuel infrastructure is more than sufficient to push the world past 2°C, pushing even the upper bounds of the Paris Agreement's temperature goals well out of reach.
- To meet the upper Paris goal ("well below 2°C"), we must achieve net zero emissions by 2040. This requires a rapid phase-out of existing fossil fuel infrastructure.
- CCS (Carbon Capture and Storage) technology is still far from being technologically and economically viable.

(Quotes of evidence from: 'A letter from 25 scientists to the Chief Scientist, Alan Finkel')

Now with the State Government committed to an emissions reduction target and the City of Greater Geelong acknowledging the changing climate is a global emergency, how can one councillor or the City of Greater Geelong possibly support or consider an approval by the State Government of a new VIVA Gas Hub for Geelong?