

July 22, 2021.

Dear DEWLP and Vic Govt,

Thank you for your efforts to address climate change by minimising our gas usage, through making this Roadmap. I agree wholeheartedly, and want to see us creating zero carbon emissions as soon as possible, ideally well before 2050.

The current global floods and northern hemisphere fires are deadly reminders that we must make these changes very quickly. And COVID has shown that we are capable of such change and adaptation. But we cannot “return to normal”, we must create a more responsible and life-sustaining normal.

To respond responsibly to this urgency, let's improve on our existing short term targets for reduction in Victorian gas use, with a minimum 35% reduction by 2025 and 60% reduction by 2030. I believe we can do this, while also caring for our vulnerable communities in transition and lower income households.

I would like to see our Roadmap include:

- **Best practice efficiency standards to reduce energy demand.** This particularly includes planning regulations which support best passive thermal design for all new buildings, both residential and commercial, and also for any renovations of existing buildings. And efficiencies for any new appliances that can only be gas-driven, along with transportation and delivery of gas itself.
- **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 and immediately changing planning law to prohibit gas to new buildings.
- **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.

As to some of the other possibilities described in the report, please:

- **Don't pursue polluting biomass and biomethane** technologies that are risky for the climate and for biodiversity
- **Don't include carbon capture and storage** technology which has been tried and demonstrably failed as a means of abating carbon emissions at scale.
- **Don't support so-called 'blue hydrogen'** from methane gas which is a dirty fuel that has no future in a zero carbon world
- **Don't pursue any further gas developments or expansions** in Victoria

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this process. All our lives are in your hands.

In hope,