

GAS SUBSTITUTION ROADMAP SUBMISSION

I have read the Gas Substitution Roadmap Consultation Paper (**Paper**) and applaud the Victorian Government's commitment to reduce emissions by 28-33% by 2025 and 45-50% by 2030. These targets reflect the existential crisis we are facing with global warming and the urgency with which we must act to reduce CO₂-e emissions and avoid catastrophic climate change. If only we could get similar commitments from our Commonwealth Government for emissions reductions on a national scale.

However, I have two very significant objections to the Paper's stated pathway to meeting these targets:

- First, that "gas will continue to play a role in meeting Victoria's energy needs for years to come" - this statement is at odds with the key objectives of the Roadmap outlined in the Paper;
- Secondly, that the Government proposes "to bolster local gas supply with the restart of the onshore conventional gas industry from 1 July 2021 and the 2018 release of new gas exploration blocks in Victorian offshore waters."

There is a glaring contradiction between this expansion of gas exploration and extraction and the Victorian government's commitment to reduce the carbon impact of gas.

The Victorian government should avoid expanding the exploration, extraction, transport and use of a fossil fuel which emits methane, a far worse gas than carbon dioxide. Please reconsider these proposals urgently.

Regards

Mark Cummings