

Submission: Victorian Gas Substitution Roadmap Consultation Paper

Firstly, I wish to congratulate the Victorian Government on this initiative and express my appreciation of its commitment to the gradual achievement of net zero emissions by 2050.

Whilst I am not an expert in any of the various areas of investigations underway and questions asked, I would like to comment on some of the key questions raised in the Consultation Paper:

Page 29 and 54: I believe a good way to maintain social acceptability and consumer confidence is to provide easy to understand and clear communication on various platforms and all the way through the transition; to offer support and advice for vulnerable members of the community during the transition; to offer financial incentives to active participation in the transition, ie for the purchase of energy efficient and electrical space heaters, cooking equipment and hot water systems.

Page 42 and 55: I would like to see gas-fired power generation removed from the list of energy sources. It seems much more feasible to focus on developing alternative, renewable energy sources, that do not require carbon capture and storage. Renewable hydrogen has its challenges but these can be overcome and it is said to become more cost competitive in the future.

Page 49 and 56: Low income and vulnerable households could receive financial assistance during the transition. I suspect the barriers for households to transition are 1. Lack of information about the long-term benefits of using renewables or the various options to make energy use more efficient, 2. Laziness, 3. Inflexibility (eg used to cooking with gas), 4.. Expenses of replacing gas fired equipment in existing homes. I think for new homes electrical heaters, cookers and hot water systems should be subsidised, as well as adequate insulation and energy preserving design.

Page 54: Consumer preferences might be partly towards natural gas, but the majority is likely to prefer renewable energy sources, especially if information is provided clearly and consistently.