

Thank you for the opportunity to make this brief submission. I do so as a concerned Victorian, retired teacher, mother and grandmother to be.

The Government is to be commended on the vision that Victoria needs to decarbonise its gas sector in order to meet our emissions reductions goal. And it is clear that this must be done in such a way as to maintain a secure and affordable energy supply to Victorian homes, businesses and institutions, and also in such a way that workers in the gas industry are supported in redeployment or retirement.

However following my reading of the consultation paper, two issues stand out for me in relation to the intention to reach a zero-carbon economy by 2030.

First, how is the cessation of the moratorium on gas exploration compatible with the government's stated emissions reductions goal? How can we both transition away from fossil fuel and open up to gas exploration in Victoria? It is now abundantly clear that there is an urgent need to cease the exploitation of gas fields, not in the indefinite future but now.

Secondly: gas exports. How can we be legitimately transitioning away from gas while at the same time exporting it in large quantities?

While of course the cessation of gas exports would affect the Victorian economy, companies and employees involved in gas production for export, gas exports contribute to the dangerous levels of warming. The threats and risks of warming now weigh much heavier in the balance than the challenges involved in redeploying and compensating those involved in the gas export industries.

I submit that

- the moratorium on gas exploration should be reinstated and
- the export of locally produced gas should be rapidly phased out.

As is increasingly recognised scientifically and by relevant authorities and agencies, gas has no credible role in the transition to a zero carbon economy.

The only way now to reach our emissions goals is not to produce emissions. Gas does not fit the bill.