



Public Meeting

14th July 2022 — 6:30pm–8pm



ACF Community
Geelong 

Independently organised ACF group

Acknowledgement of Country



Running list for tonight

If you aren't presenting to the Inquiry Panel - you should be able to leave around 7:30. The last 30mins is a chance to ask questions about presenting to the Inquiry panel.

1. Gas market update (Sue)
2. What's been happening at the Hearings (Sal, Neil)
3. Gas free network: Gas Substitution roadmap (Neil)
4. Actions you can take (Sue and Robert)
5. Presenting at the Hearings (Tony)
6. Questions

Strong community response

- + 4000 petition signatures
- + 2000 individual submissions to the EES
- ~ 150 community presentations to the EES
- + 200 coreflutes signs up around Geelong
- + 10,000 flyers and printed material distributed
- + 70,000 'reach' on Facebook



THE AGE
'Destroying the future': Anger at gas plan

Geelong Times
2000 submissions on controversial gas hub

Geelong Advertiser
Surge in gas plan worries

9NEWS
More than 2,000 submissions made on proposed Viva Energy LNG terminal in Geelong

Energy market update — why we have enough gas

The 'gas crisis' is a fraud

Sue Bull, June 8, 2022
Issue 1348 // Australia



Photo: Geelong Renewables Not Gas protest in November/Facebook

While none of us want to pay higher energy bills, further investigation reveals that the current "gas crisis" is really an environmental and economic fraud.



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Can Australian gas help the world navigate the climate crisis? Or is it just more hot air?

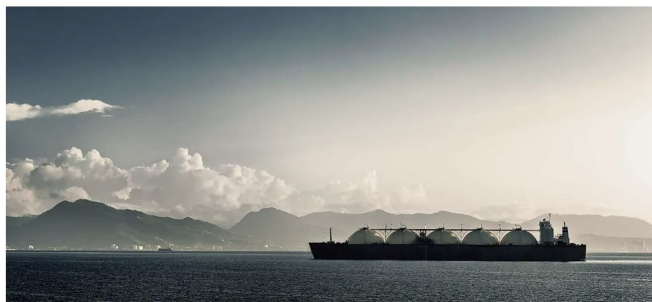
Graham Readfearn



The path to net zero is plagued by claims that LNG is less dirty than coal, but there is practically no evidence to back them up

Gas exporters sucking gas out of domestic market in middle of crisis, data shows

[Michael Mazengarb](#) 29 June 2022 



Gas: importing exports will lead to more profiteering

by Bruce Robertson | Jul 11, 2018 | Energy & Environment

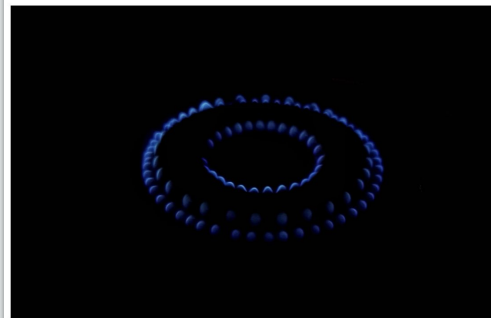


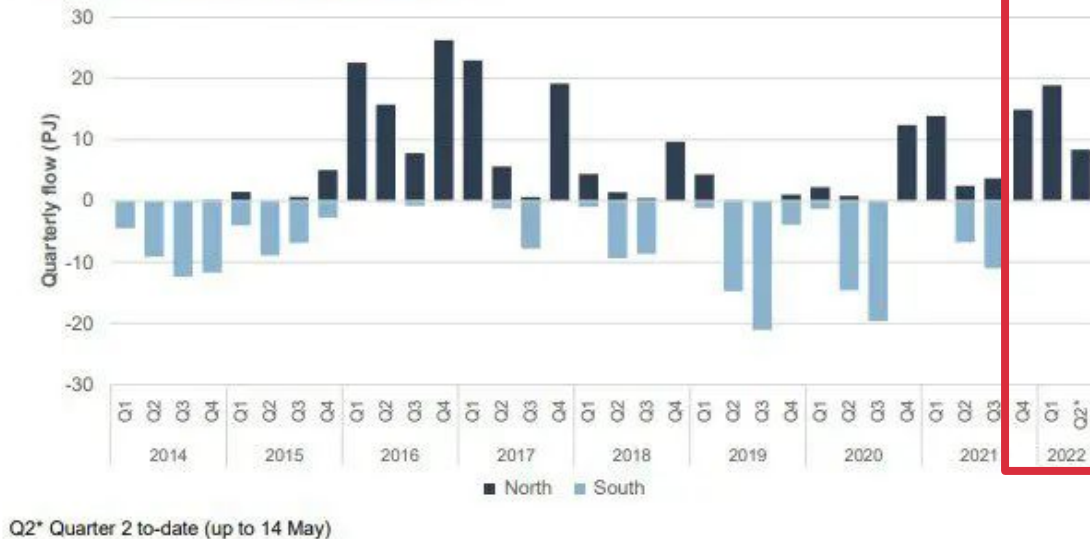
Photo by Parvesh Kumar on Unsplash

Australia is destined to become the world's biggest exporter of gas, writes analyst **Bruce Robertson**. Importing gas to solve the challenge of rampaging gas prices is ludicrous and only paves the way for the gas cartel to further profiteer at the expense of consumers. The answer is clear; a "domestic reservation policy" which earmarks Australian gas for Australia consumers. What is lacking is political will.

More gas required to flow south to meet demand

From 10 May, prices have been above \$30/GJ in the downstream markets, exceeding the export parity price⁴ for June (\$27.96/GJ). For the fourth quarter to date and despite record high domestic spot prices, the majority of gas continues to flow north to Queensland (see figure 7 below), supplementing production at Gladstone for LNG exports. During the week of 8–14 May only a limited volume of gas flowed to Southern markets from Queensland.

Figure 7: North-South gas flows



Bars above the line indicate that more gas was flowing to Queensland (north) than South during the last three quarters

Graph from the Australian Energy Regulator
AER gas weekly report - 8
– 14 May 2022_0.pdf

“The LNG producers expect to take more gas out of the domestic market than they expect to supply in 2022...

“While the LNG producers forecast to supply 160 PJ into the domestic market, they expect to withdraw 27 PJ more from the domestic market with 187 PJ of third party purchases,”

— Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC)

There is no gas shortage in Australia; the country exports most of its gas and is the fifth-largest gas exporter in the world. Four companies — BHP-Exxon, Shell, Santos and Origin — are making multi-billion dollar profits from its export.

“It’s a tired old neo-liberal mantra, a false narrative peddled by gas lobby toadies in the financial press, because there is no ‘market’ only a cartel of four powerful gas producers holding a nation to ransom.”

What's been happening at the hearings

All documents and recordings of expert witnesses at the Hearings can be found on <https://engage.vic.gov.au/viva-gas-terminal-IAC>



EPA's concerns

The EPA has concerns about :

1. Noise impacts (cumulative impact on top of existing Refinery noise) have not been assessed
2. Whether Scope 3 GHG emissions should be considered within the control of Viva/not (undecided)
3. Cool water releases from the FSRU into Corio Bay & possible entrainment of plankton in the intake to the FSRU.
4. Dredging should not be allowed in Spring-Summer to protect seagrasses.

...“the Proponent appears to have prioritised operational flexibility over the mitigation of impacts or minimisation of risks. While EPA recognises the Proponent’s desire to deliver a Project which answers market demand, it considers operational parameters should be set on the basis of minimisation of risk rather than maximisation of flexibility.”...

Ref: EPA Submission (Tabled Document No. 217)

GeelongPort's concerns

GeelongPort want to build a hydrogen import terminal in the same location as Viva's proposed gas terminal.

Loss of opportunity for new green industry for Geelong.

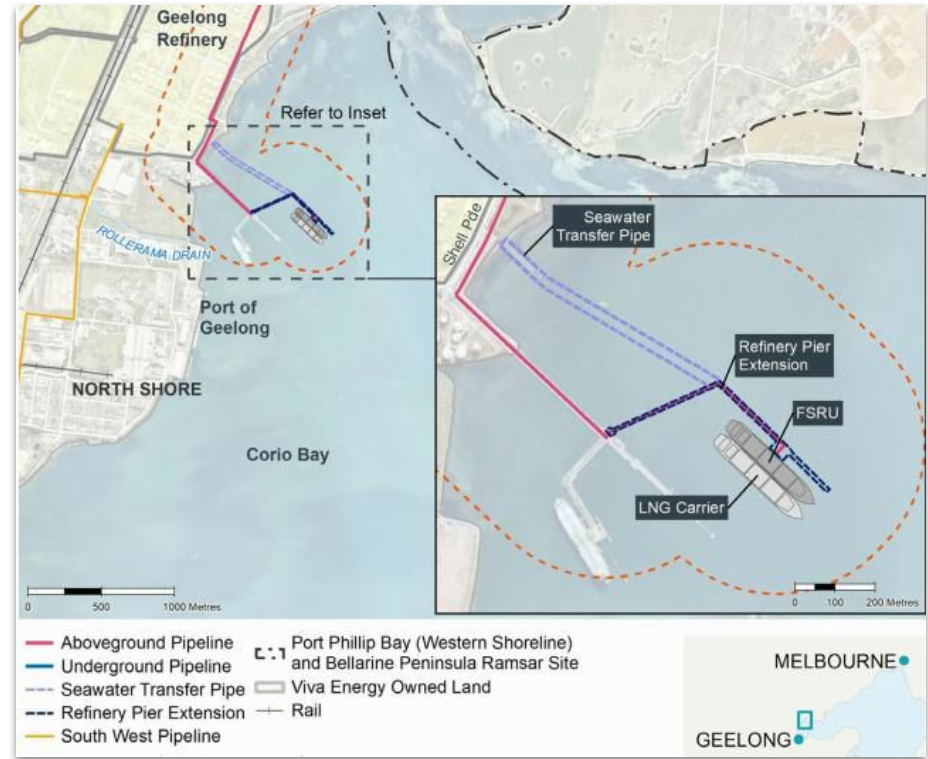
Geelong Port hasn't given Viva approval to proceed with its project.



Figure 2-4 : Illustration of ammonia berth at Refinery Pier for GeelongPort Hydrogen Hub (Martin Mannion's expert witness report)

GeelongPort's concerns

1. The new berth is too close to the existing berth (only 100m separation).
2. A **complete navigational simulation has not been carried out at the pier nor throughout the channel.**
3. There is **no mooring study** to prove that the FSRU and LNGC can be safely moored in extreme weather.
4. The **unloading of the gas from the LNG carriers to the FSRU is omitted** from the safety risks and hazards analysis.



GeelongPort's concerns

1. **Lack of consideration of major accident events.** EES ignores events on the LNG carrier, loss of mooring, extreme weather etc.
2. **Navigation and marine risk for the LNG carrier** along the channel from Port Philip Heads haven't been discussed/analysed
3. **Insufficient input and involvement from stakeholders** to identify hazards and minimise risk
4. **Risk assessment has not included events at other berths/adjacent MHFs.**
5. **Risk scenarios are optimistic** only focusing on the FSRU and pier and not the LNG carrier.
6. **Lack of description of the emergency response after an incident.**
7. **There is a lack of detail re risk mitigation** outlined in the Environmental Management Framework.

LNG Tanker Aground In River Plate En Route To Escobar

By Mfame Editor - August 1, 2021

560



Share on Facebook



Tweet on Twitter



Recent incident at an LNG facility in the USA

1. Explosion in over pressurized pipes that transfer LNG from storage tank to the dock.
2. LNG Vapour cloud ignited
3. 90 day shut-down of the plant to find cause & address it.
4. LNG prices to rise further as a result of shortage.
5. Cause uncertain, Russian cyber attack considered

Explosion at US natural gas plant raises risk of shortages in Europe

Freeport LNG to shut down for at least three weeks after incident at Texas Gulf coast facility

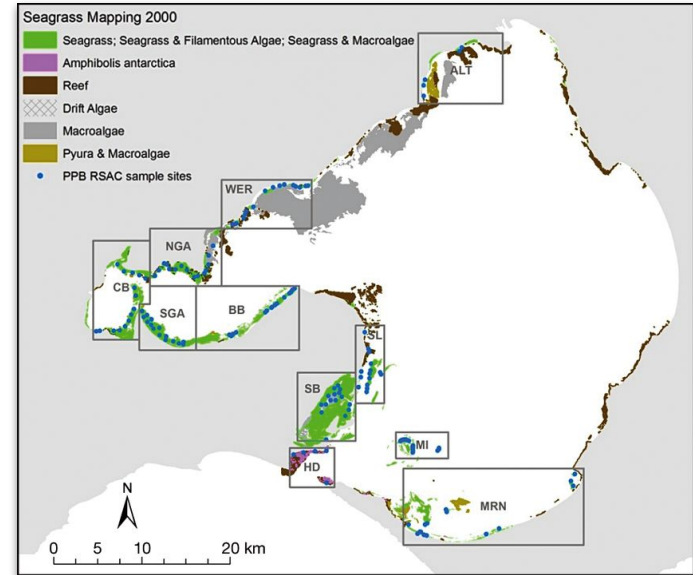


📷 A screengrab of the explosion at the Freeport LNG facility. Photograph: Quintana Beach County Park/Facebook

Marine environment damage – Sea grasses

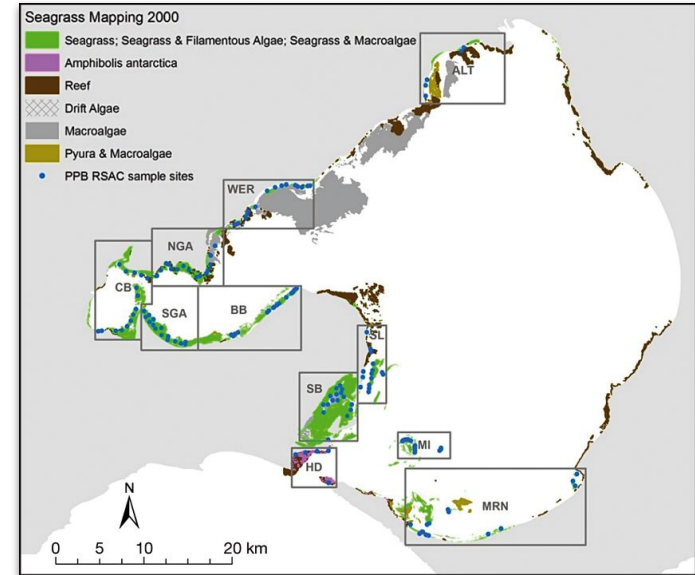
- Sea grasses are important because they;
- stabilise sediments and improve water quality
- reduce coastal erosion
- provide nursery habitats and refuge for key fish species, and
- support algae and invertebrates that provide food for other species.

When the stabilising roots of seagrass are lost, the result is increased turbidity and reduced water clarity. Increased turbidity then kills more seagrass and this process continues in a vicious cycle.



Marine environment damage

1. The cumulative effect of turbidity (sediment) has been ignored, i.e. all of the additional ships, currents, tides, winds are not being factored in. Only considering tugs and construction. Turbidity blocks sunlight to sea grasses
2. Viva have readings that show 'low' levels of toxicity, however even low levels have been found to affect flat head, in studies done in Port Phillip Bay
3. Just because industry over 100s of years has impacted the bay, doesn't mean that we should continue to allow this with new projects.





Clean energy transition and reducing climate risks

Key messages

- Higher the emissions, the worse Victoria's climate risks
- Delaying or slowing the energy transition also increase climate risks
- Victorian Government has already committed to reducing gas consumption
- There are inconsistencies with "Sustainability is at the core of Viva Energy's Business Principles"



Net Zero by 2050

A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector

"Beyond projects already committed as of 2021, there are **no new oil and gas fields approved for development in our pathway, and no new coal mines or mine extensions are required.** The unwavering policy focus on climate change in the net zero pathway results in a **sharp decline in fossil fuel demand ...**"

[International Energy Agency, 2021](#)

Higher the emissions, the worse Victoria's climate risks

Victoria's climate has changed

Temperature **INCREASE** of 1.2°C since 1910



DECREASE in average rainfall



Significant **INCREASE** in fire danger in spring



If global emissions continue to increase, in the 2050s Victoria may experience...

Average annual temperature **INCREASE** of up to 2.4°C



DOUBLE the number of very hot days



Sea levels **RISING** by around 24 cm



LONGER fire seasons, with up to double the number of high fire danger days



DECLINE in alpine snowfall of 35-75%



DECLINE in cool season rainfall



More **INTENSE** downpours



Under high emissions, compared to 1986-2005. Updated from Victoria's Climate Science Report 2019

<https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorias-changing-climate>

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Delaying or slowing the energy transition also increase climate risks

Viva projects gas demand increasing from mid-2020s

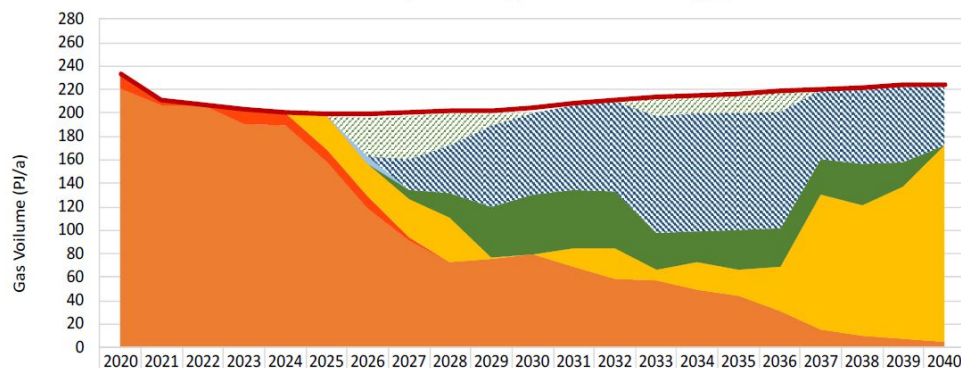
Inconsistent with the Victorian Government's projections

If realised this could put Geelong and Victoria's emissions reduction targets out of reach

Further concerns from

- Not including transport emissions in sourcing LNG, which would not exist without the project
- Heavy reliance on offsets which have efficacy and legitimacy concerns
- LNG process consumes more than 9% of gas
- Leaks will potentially underestimate methane emissions
- Estimated that 12% childhood asthma is associated with indoor gas use
- Volatile and high gas prices continuing

Victoria/Tasmania gas demand and supply



Viva Energy and EnergyQuest, 2021 (with overall demand shown by red line)

Victorian government has already committed to reducing gas consumption

The Gas Substitution Roadmap (GSR) - Victorian Government's plan to decarbonise the gas sector

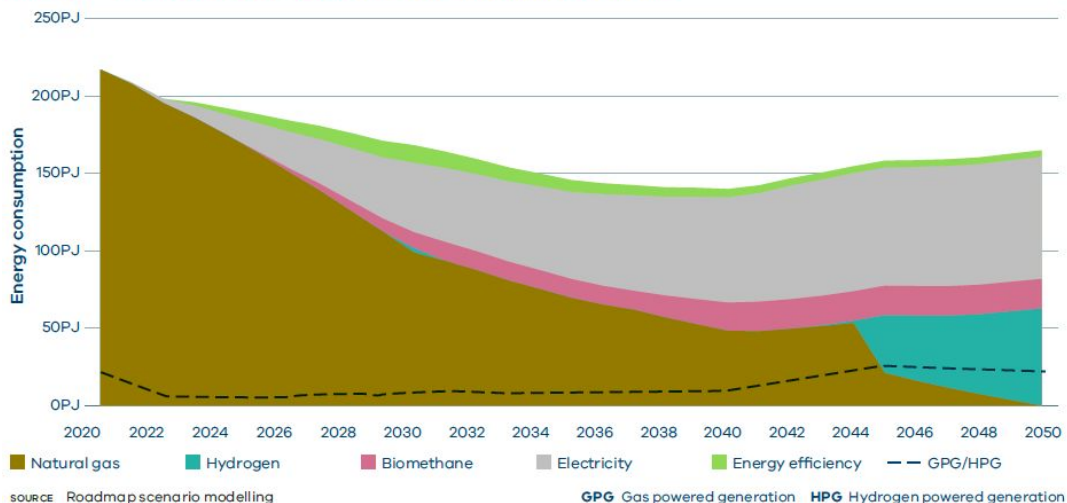
More than 60% of Victoria's gas used is for space heating, cooking and for hot water and only 8.5% for electricity generation

Significant cost and emissions savings for households in shifting from gas to all electric

Additional gains through supporting energy efficiencies and gas demand reduction

Planning and plumbing regulations updated to stop mandatory gas connections to new homes & businesses

FIGURE 7 Energy consumption RAPID TRANSITION SCENARIO



Victorian Government GSR, 2022

Challenging “Sustainability is at the core of Viva Energy’s Business Principles”

Sustainability Claim	Comment
“In the coming decades, Australia’s economy needs to shift to a lower carbon intensity. ” (p15-6)	Actual carbon emissions (not carbon intensity) must be significantly reduced within this decade. Unfortunately, Viva’s aim to lower carbon intensity can be achieved while increasing their overall emissions but decreasing their intensity.
“...This would provide reliable and affordable energy, ... while acknowledging the need to transition away from fossil fuels in the long-term. ” (p15-9)	The transition away from fossil fuels is needed urgently with large emissions reductions required this decade.
“The company supports the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change and Australia’s commitment to it ...” (p15-6)	Signatories of the Paris Agreement have committed to keeping global warming ‘well below 2°C’ , which requires emissions reductions of at least 50% by 2030. Viva is not committed to reductions anywhere close to these targets.

... Challenging “Sustainability is at the core of Viva Energy’s Business Principles”

Sustainability Claim	Comment
Viva “supports the policies and action that will help Australia meet its emissions reduction commitments.” (p15-6)	Viva’s reductions ambitions are not aligned with any of our national, state and city-wide targets.
“Sustainable procurement ensures that ESG considerations are addressed within the supply chain, but also aims to identify and maximise potential sustainability benefits through responsible purchasing.” (p15-14)	Viva’s project will see LNG transported over long distances and without taking accountability for the very high carbon emissions associated with this transport.
“Viva Energy’s annual sustainability reporting aligns with the Global Reporting Initiative Standards ...” (p15-4)	Transitioning to a low-carbon economy requires organisations to set emissions targets that are consistent with the goal of limiting global warming to well below 2°C under the Paris Agreement. This requires emissions reductions by 2030 and Viva is not committed to these.

Emissions impacts (Ironbark Sustainability, 2022)














Viva supplied information estimates the following emissions impacts

- Including only **transportation emissions**, total operational emissions **increase to 230,000t CO₂e** for domestic supply, and **618,000t CO₂e** for international supply
- Through excluding these emissions, **72% to 89% of project emissions are eliminated** from consideration and control
- Incorporating extraction emissions, up to 96% of anticipated emissions associated with this Project are being excluded from consideration



Gas-free network updates

Gas Substitution Roadmap

Challenges	Actions	Outcomes
 Gas is becoming scarcer – increasing risk to reliability	 Drive energy efficiency and electrification	 Reduce energy bills for households and businesses
 Gas is becoming more expensive – exposing consumers to higher bills	 Regulatory reform for all-electric homes	 Free up gas for industry and improve access to affordable, reliable supply
 Climate change action requires emissions reductions from all sectors	 Support take up of alternative gases such as hydrogen and biomethane	 More energy-efficient buildings
	 Maintain gas reliability through infrastructure and market reform	 Reduce emissions
	 Build skills and capability	 Support clean energy jobs



Gas

Substitution Roadmap

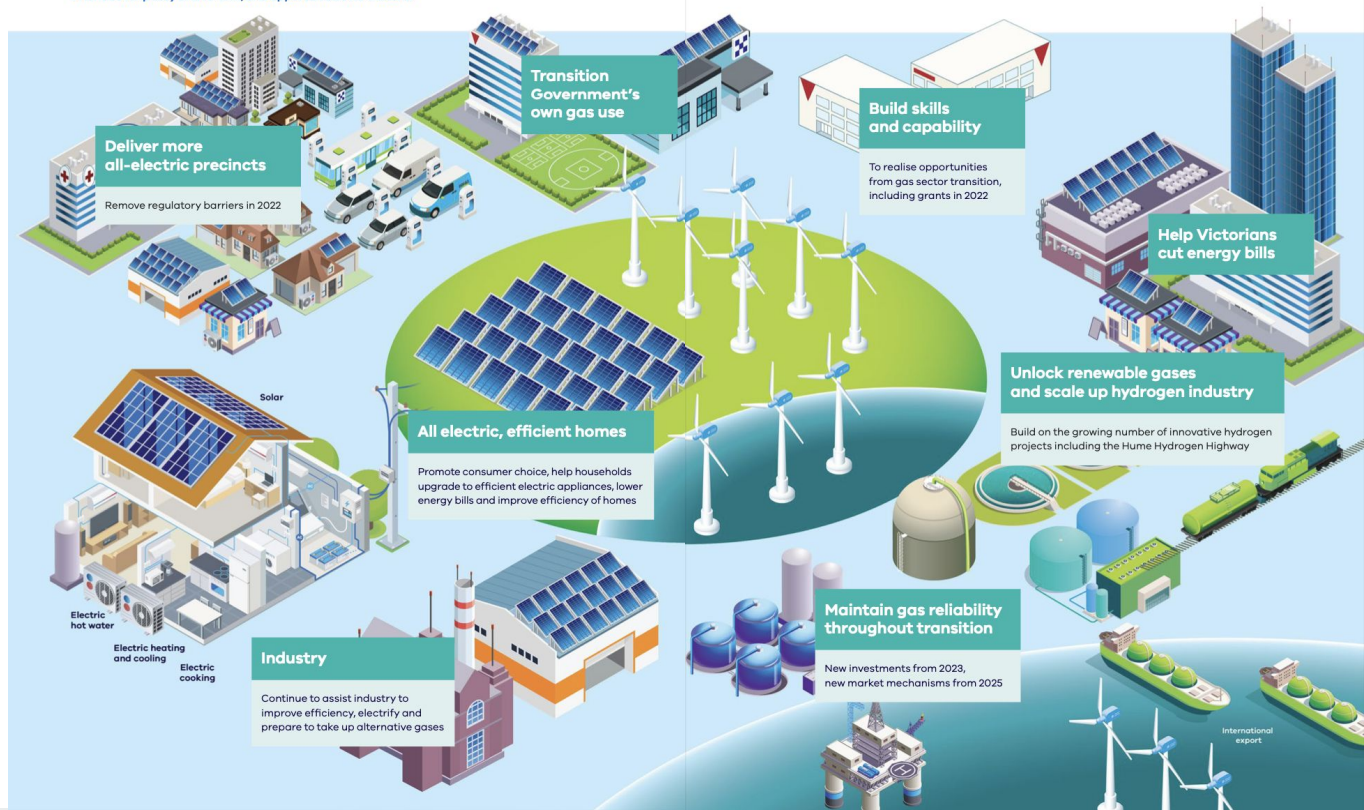
VICTORIA
State Government

Gas Substitution Roadmap

AT A GLANCE

Priorities for policy and reform, and opportunities for Victoria

Complemented by \$331 million in 2022 to reduce energy emissions, secure Victoria's energy grid and drive down energy prices. Builds on \$1.6 billion for clean energy in 2020.



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Positive news stories

Geelong Advertiser GAS RELIANCE DANGEROUS

VICTORIA is facing what has been reported as a “frightening” lack of new gas supply projects, which comes as the world is in the grip of an energy supply crisis and soaring prices.

Resource companies, including Santos boss Kevin Gallagher, are complaining about a “decade of energy policy failure that has stopped the industry from developing more supply in a timely manner.”

Of course, companies with skin in the game and gas fields to ravage for easy profit would say this.

But if we are really going to tackle climate change, and not just talk about it, we need to start to rapidly reduce our reliance on gas. Not seek out more of it.

We have seen it in small but effective ways locally in the building industry, with the likes of Villawood offering developments without a gas connection, instead looking to solar power as a renewable option for heating, cooking and hot water.

That trend needs to continue quickly and incentives offered to steer away from gas. Consumers also need to be encouraged to opt out of gas when replacing appliances.

We must be investing in technology of the future, not falling back on gas.

However, Mr Gallagher said the only way to drive down prices was to bring online more supply.

It is definitely a more complex issue than this space allows, but surely the addition of more supply must come from renewables.



Lower energy costs with both solar PV and solar hot water rebates

The Solar Homes Program is supporting eligible Victorian households to save even more on energy bills. Learn more about how new and existing customers can now apply for both solar panel PV and solar hot water rebates.

Actions you can take

New petition – with the Victorian Parliament

- Different to the petition on our website
- Directly lodged with the Victorian Parliament
- ‘Sponsored’ by Andy Meddick MP who is a supporter of the campaign
- At the conclusion of the petition, Andy is granted an opportunity to speak on the petition in Parliament - need to take advantage of this opportunity and make sure we have lots of signatures



Legislative Council
Parliament
OF VICTORIA

PETITION
TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

The Petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council the community's safety and environmental concerns regarding Viva Energy's proposal for a liquefied natural gas import terminal at Corio Bay in Geelong. The community thinks it should not go ahead.

The Petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to reject Viva Energy's application to implement their proposed liquefied natural gas import terminal at Corio Bay in Geelong

Name	Address	Town/Suburb	Postcode	Signature
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				



New petition – with the Victorian Parliament

We want to get 2000 petition signatures before the 1st of September (when the petition closes)

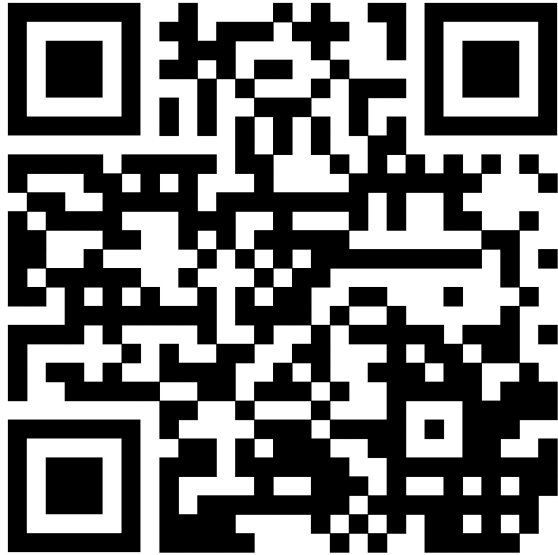
Can you help us achieve our goal?

- Pickup a printed petition list and take it to your neighbours, workplace and family gatherings.
 - Scan and email it to us or email us we can tell you where you can drop it off / post it to.
info@geelongrenewablesnotgas.org
- Share the electronic petition via social media or email

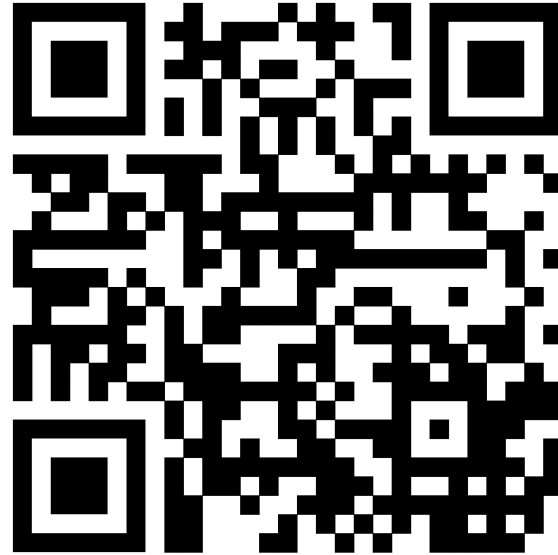
+2000
signatures by
the 1st of
September



Sign now!



Download and print





Letter writing to politicians

Will start turning our attention towards this in the coming weeks.

We don't think that Victorian MPs (apart from those in the seats of Corio and Geelong) are aware of the proposal. We need to raise awareness with all of them - to ensure that they are talking internally to the Planning Minister - telling them that their constituents don't want it approved.

Dear <X>,

I am _____, I live in your electorate and I am writing to you to express my objections to Viva Energy's proposed LNG gas import terminal. I care deeply about <climate change / our environment / the safety of residents / the amenity of Corio bay> because _____

I believe that this is the wrong direction for this state to take, and I am calling on you to advocate to the Planning Minister to reject this terminal – like was done for the almost identical proposal by AGL in Westernport Bay. The terminal threatens the safety of residents, the health of the environment of Corio bay, and increases the impacts of climate change everywhere.

If you are not aware, Viva Energy is seeking to build a floating LNG import terminal in Corio Bay. The project is currently undergoing an Environmental Effects Statement process, as requested by the Planning Minister, the Inquiry Panel's recommendation will go before the Planning Minister later this year. The project involves the construction of a new pier, pipeline, the mooring of a massive LNG processing ship for the life of the project, and up to 40 giant LNG tanker ships a year negotiating the narrow and shallow channel into Corio Bay.

Presenting to the hearing



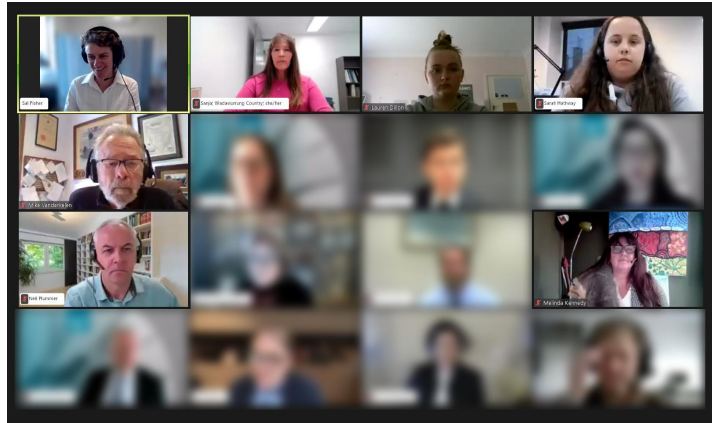
What we found from our presentation

“Despite the unlevel playing field, volunteers will be listened to and can make a big impact.”

“...impressed by the panel's attention, interest and questions”

- The panel were attentive, respectful and inquisitive.
- They are keen to understand what aspects of the proposal the community objects to, and what impact it will have on the community.

What to expect when you login



- The session will be in-progress when you login.
- When your slot comes up, you will be identified by the panel and a request will come through to make you a panelist. This will enable the panel to see and hear you.
- Make sure you login 15 minutes earlier than your allotted time as the schedule does change

Formula for a presentation

MOTIVATION

What motivated you to write a submission and present at the hearing? Your personal connection to the terminal.

CONCERNS

What do you know about the terminal and what parts of it concern you?

REQUEST

What is your request of the panel – what do you want the IAC to consider when they are preparing their report for the Planning Minister?

What should you say?

MOTIVATION

What motivated you to write a submission and present at the hearing?

- Are you a local resident?
- Do you use the area affected?
- Are you concerned for your friends and family?

What should you say?

CONCERNS

What do you know about the terminal and what parts of it concern you?

- Marine damage, climate change impacts, safety, amenity and access to the bay. All of the things that we have discussed today
- Read the detailed pages on our website
- Watch our presentation to the panel last Friday
- Watch the speeches at our recent rally
- Read the EES FAQ page on our website

What should you say?

REQUEST

What is your request of the panel – what do you want the IAC to consider when they are preparing their report for the Planning Minister?

- Call on them to recommend that the potential harms outweigh the benefits, and that the Minister should reject the terminal.

What should you say?

COMMON CONCERNS

Will my presentation be cross-examined?

No, you are not an expert, and as such you will not be cross-examined. The Inquiry and Advisory Committee might ask you to explain further or clarify something if they find it particularly relevant or interesting.

Do I have to be an expert?

No, the IAC is interested in hearing from community members and how the proposal affects you, your life, profession, hobbies, family and friends.

Viva Energy counsel Stuart Morris said it was “unlikely” the country could make a “significant” contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions unless “the people of Australia are brought along in that mission”...

Let's remind Viva – that the people of Australia are much further ahead on emissions reduction than Viva is, and that we are prepared to take action when companies propose projects that are against what the science is telling us. Fossil fuels must stay in the ground.

Questions!

Thanks for coming and good luck!

