Letter for Government Victorian MPs

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I live in your electorate and I am writing to you to express my objections to a LNG gas import terminal that the government needs to shortly make a decision on.

I believe building new fossil fuel infrastructure 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 rationale behind this project is that it eliminates a ‘shortfall’ in gas for this state, however it has been repeatedly shown that there is sufficient supply of gas - if only we stop the LNG exporters from sending it all overseas.  The ACCC found that 60% of all gas on the east coast of Australia will be exported in 2023.  It’s ludicrous that we need to buy gas from the international market to supply Victorians - when Australia is one of the largest LNG exporters in the world.

Importing fossil (“natural”) gas by shipping it as LNG emits huge amounts of greenhouse gases - up to 600,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions in Viva’s own projections if they import gas from Qatar.  And that’s even before counting the emissions created when the gas is burned in homes and businesses. This project claims it would import up to 160 petajoules of gas, which is the equivalent of 8.8 million tonnes of greenhouse pollution per year, or 9% of Victoria’s annual emissions. These emissions run counter to Victoria’s legislated emissions reduction targets, and the Government’s Gas Substitution Roadmap which models a 50% reduction in gas use by 2030.  I am concerned about the future we are creating if we continue to approve fossil fuel projects.

The gas industry wants everyone to believe that more gas is a necessary part of the transition to an entirely renewable and electric economy.  This statement is incorrect, we have the technology available right now to skip gas and go straight to an all-electric all-renewable future.  The majority of gas usage in Victoria is easily replaced with reverse cycle air conditioners, heat-pump hot water and induction cooktops.  Increasing the rate that consumers switch away from gas through increased government subsidies and grants will reduce demand on the gas network such that the need for new gas infrastructure is eliminated.

I have personally <<disconnected by house from gas>> << witnessed neighbours/friends/family disconnect their house from gas>> <<wanted to disconnect my house from gas but would like more government support to do so>>

Your government has taken laudable measures to increase the amount of renewable energy generation in this state — but more is still needed to mitigate the climate emergency.  It’s inconsistent and illogical to be increasing renewable generation while also approving fossil fuel projects.  Renewables need to displace fossil fuels from the energy mix of our state.

I am asking you to call on the Planning Minister and explain the significant objections to this project outlined in this letter and why this is the wrong direction for the State of Victoria. Can you let me know your position on Viva’s gas terminal and the response that you receive from the Planning Minister.

Thank you for considering my letter,

Name