

## Stakeholder Forum: Proposed Gas Safety (Gas Installation Regulations)

Anthony Edwards (Bosch), GAMAA's Executive Councilor attended a stakeholder meeting 17 November which was held at the ESV offices in Mulgrave.

In attendance were the ESV team including Brendan Frost, Enzo Alfonsetti the ESV team and also interested stakeholders from the gas, plumbing and electrical industry.

A small group attended and proceeded through a draft of the new gas installation regulations for Victoria.

Purpose: Introduce draft regulation and discuss future RIS and impact statement.

- This was the third meeting in the consultation process and so far they have consulted with 130 stakeholders
- Next step in the process is to finalise any changes to proposed regulations then to release a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) as early as Christmas but latest April 2018
- Current Regulations expire end of 2018
- Planning to have remade legislation by August 2018
- Current regulations are balanced right, not proposing any new regulations on elements
- Key proposal is to remake regulations with only minor changes
- Changes to update references to Building codes etc
- Also introducing a 6-month grace period from when new standards and changes in Regulations will be enforce.
- Some minor changes to regulations and also introducing new Fees for exemptions under section 62
- It is believed that there will be no significant changes to industry

The RIS will be open for 60 days from release to ensure all interested parties can check and respond.

GAMAA will keep all members informed of next steps.

### Hydrogen a key driver: Finkel

Gas Today Wed 22 November 2017

Australia's Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel, has thrown his support behind hydrogen at the launch of the Australian Council of Learned Academies' (ACOLA) The role of energy storage in Australia's future energy mix report this week.

The report shows that Australia has a wealth of natural advantages that could aid the development of new industries, exports and create jobs in mining and manufacturing.

It also warns that without proper planning and investment in energy storage, electricity costs in Australia will continue to rise and electricity supply will become less reliable.

Speaking at the launch of the report at Parliament House in Canberra on Monday, Dr Finkel said he was very pleased with the report.

"It's looking at the opportunity to export sunshine, take sunshine, wind, renewable electricity, and use that through electrolysis to make hydrogen and from hydrogen you make ammonia and ammonia is easy to ship and you can send it to countries that have indicated that they will have a not only growing, but a huge demand for hydrogen and they want clean hydrogen going into the future, countries such as Japan and Korea," said Dr Finkel.

"So there are many, many diverse opportunities for Australia and I think this report has captured, well, all of them that I'm aware of so I'm very pleased with this report."

Dr Finkel also moved to dismiss any suggestion that partisan politics were behind the report, pointing out that it doesn't have any recommendations and isn't a government commissioned report.

"You can store an enormous amount of energy in the gas or hydrogen that's packed in the pipes".

"This is not a report that's making recommendations about anybody's policy at all."



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