

BOOK NOW!

GAMAA Christmas Lunch & Technical Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday 22 November

Venue: Sandringham Yacht Club - Jetty Road Sandringham

- 9.30am to 12noon - Technical Committee meeting -Training Room
- 12noon to 4pm - Christmas Lunch - Olympic Room

To register please email associations@aigroup.com.au

Electrify the gas - should we, or shouldn't we?

Dennis Van Puyvelde - Head of Gas, Energy Networks Association

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A large proportion of Australian households use gas for heating, cooking and hot water. The fuel contributes to about two per cent of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions. In comparison, the emissions associated with electricity consumption at home contribute almost 20 per cent of national emissions. As the economy decarbonises to meet global climate change commitments, Australian households will also need to cut back on their emissions. In terms of household gas, there are two options to achieve this.

The first promotes replacing gas with electrical appliances (electrification) on the basis that electricity will be decarbonised in the long term and provide emission-free energy services. The second option identified in [Gas Vision 2050](#) is to decarbonise the fuel distributed in gas networks. This will not only result in emission-free energy, but also make use of our vast existing gas infrastructure and reduce the pressure on our electricity networks.

..... The main conclusion is that electrifying the gas network is not a practical solution, as it will require significant additional investment in electricity infrastructure (generation, transmission and distribution) generally leading to higher, overall energy bills for consumers. Moreover, electrification of domestic gas is a very expensive way for reducing CO2 emissions, and alternatives such as injecting renewable gases into networks are available at much lower cost.

.... Energy Networks Australia supports technology neutral policy settings. The push by some advocates to promote policy-driven electrification could in fact lead to increased energy costs while producing limited emission reductions, or may actually result in increasing emissions. A technology neutral approach will allow different technologies to be introduced to meet local conditions. For example, heat pump technology may work well in northern Australia, while decarbonising gas networks – through renewable gases – may be a better approach to reducing emissions in Victoria instead of electrification driven policies.

..... The renewable gas option is being pursued by many gas distribution businesses worldwide and Australian gas businesses are demonstrating these technologies using biogas and hydrogen.

Hopefully the evidence provided in these two reports (embedded in the report) will inform policy makers about the effectiveness of electrification options and provide a more balanced argument to emission reductions from the residential sector. Read Dennis' full report [here](#) .

New Federal Energy Minister

Angus Taylor is the new Energy Minister in the Morrison Government. He served as Minister for Law Enforcement and Cybersecurity in the Turnbull Government from 20 December 2017 to 23 August 2018. Minister Taylor is a Liberal Member of the Australian House of Representatives, representing the Division of Hume in New South Wales, since 7 September 2013.

Minister Taylor has argued that lower-emission natural gas is a "better way to reduce carbon emissions" and Australia can supply countries such as China and India "with the energy they need to continue their rise.



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