

Standards Australia

Standards Australia has been presented with a once in a generation opportunity to significantly change the way we deliver for Australian industry, consumers, business and the broader community.

Following an important arbitration win supporting Standards Australia's position that future distribution of its content will not be on an exclusive basis, Standards Australia has been working towards opening up access to its content with the needs of our stakeholders and users front of mind.

This process will include comprehensive consultation in each capital city across Australia seeking views on our Distribution and Licensing Policy Discussion Paper, which has been recently released.

GAMAA will be submitting a response on behalf of our members - should you have any contributions please send these to leonb@rinnai.com.au or rjamieson@sitgas.com.au by the 19th July.

Open Flued Heaters Update

Over recent weeks there have been a number of articles in The Age newspaper regarding open flued heaters.

Since the Victorian Coroner findings into the death of Sonia Sofianopoulos, GAMAA has communicated on behalf of members that there is no single answer or pathway to achieving a reduction in risk to the community of CO poisoning from open flued heaters as this is a highly complex matter that involves many aspects other than just the heaters themselves.

When a gas product does not meet the required Australian Standard it is legitimate that appropriate steps are taken to mitigate the associated risks to the community. This has already occurred with a number of open flued heater models. It is important for the community to embrace and act upon the message to have all their gas appliances, including heaters, serviced regularly by competent persons.

GAMAA regards the calls by some members of the community to disconnect or "recall" any open flued heater that spills under negative pressure conditions a knee-jerk reaction that could leave thousands of Victorians without effective heating, creating obvious health risks. These calls ignore the fact that, in most cases, provisions can be made to eliminate the negative pressure conditions and remove the safety risk, enabling the open flued heater to remain operational.

GAMAA supports a measured response and as such supports a Victorian Government Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) that considers all aspects and options. It is our understanding that this RIS process will commence in the foreseeable future.

Interim Reduction Targets for Victoria 2021 – 2030

The Victorian Government under the *Climate Change Act 2017* has received a report from the Independent Expert Panel, titled Interim Emissions Reduction Targets for Victoria 2021-2030: Access the Interim Reduction Targets of Victoria submission [here](#)

The Victorian Government is seeking written responses to the interim report using the following link: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/climate-change-reducing-victorias-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

GAMAA will be submitting a response on behalf of our members - should you have any contributions please send these to leonb@rinnai.com.au or rjamieson@sitgas.com.au by the 17th July.

COAG Energy Council

The COAG Energy Council Working Group has released a series of discussion papers.

The most appropriate one for GAMAA members to respond to will be "No 6 Hydrogen in the gas network", as appliances have been considered as part of gas infrastructure. The action required from GAMAA and our members is to respond to the following questions:

The National Hydrogen Taskforce is seeking responses to the questions below. You can submit your comments via the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science's consultation Hub:

Submit comments [here](#)

1. Which existing gas distribution networks or stand-alone systems are 'hydrogen ready' and which are not? What safe upper limit applies? Does this readiness include meters, behind-the-meter infrastructure, and appliances?
2. What is the potential to have a test project of 100% hydrogen use in a small regional location and where?
3. Which standards and regulations can be harmonised across jurisdictions considering the different structures and market settings (e.g. safety, codes of practice)?
4. What roles should government and industry play in addressing any consumer concerns and building social acceptance?
5. How could the actions included in Table 2 be improved? Are there other actions that should be added?

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Gas Appliance
Manufacturers
Association of
Australia

GAS
Connections