

GAMAA 55th AGM - Reminder to register

The 55<sup>th</sup> GAMAA AGM will be held on Tuesday 3 September 2019 at 1.15pm at Ai Group, L2. 441 St Kilda Road, Melbourne.

A light lunch will precede the AGM at 12.30pm.

To Register please email <u>associations@aigoup.com.au</u>

## **Review of ESV**

An independent review of Victoria's electricity and gas network safety framework has been completed. It reviewed the design and adequacy of the safety regulatory system governing the safety of Victoria's electricity and gas networks, including the regulator, Energy Safe Victoria.

On 19 January 2017, the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change announced an independent Review of Victoria's Electricity Network Safety Framework, to be chaired by Dr Paul Grimes.

On 5 May 2017, the Minister announced an expansion to the Review's Terms of Reference to include Victoria's gas network safety framework.

The Terms of Reference can be found here.

It has been more than a decade since the current safety framework has been in place and it was timely to review the existing arrangements to ensure they adequately reflect the needs of the community in an increasingly complex environment.

The Review included extensive consultation with stakeholders to inform its findings and recommendations.

The government supports in full 21 of the 43 recommendations and has requested Energy Safe Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to take steps to progress them. These include:

- Strengthening Energy Safe Victoria's capability and preparedness to take strong regulatory action
- Better integration across agencies
- Promoting workforce engagement
- Ensuring the framework is able to manage new sources of safety risk in the networks of the future.

The government supports 21 recommendations in principle, and will draw on further consultation and analysis to determine how they are best implemented. These include recommendations to:

- Modernise Energy Safe Victoria's governance structure from a single-member agency to a three-person commission
- Revise and consolidate four separate pieces of legislation into a single new energy Safety Act, for a more effective and aligned legislative framework across sectors
- Consider methods to improve gas reliability now and in the future
- Promote further research and development for bushfire safety
- Better protect underground assets through regulation and planning processes.

The government does not support one recommendation for the Chair of the recommended Energy Safe Victoria Commission to also serve as the chief executive. Best practice governance models require a separation of these roles to facilitate effective oversight of management and allow clear lines of accountability between the setting of regulatory strategy, regulatory decision making and the day to day management of the entity.

Read the review of the role of ESV for both gas and electricity here