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Seeley closure highlights impact of Victoria's ideological war on gas

Seeley International, a member of GAMAA and one of Australia's largest gas heating manufacturers, announced yesterday that it will be closing their Albury factory by the end of next year – directly attributing the closure of the site to the Victorian Government's anti-gas agenda.

Seeley International will be consolidating its manufacturing operations into its Adelaide base. This will impact over 120 regional Victorian jobs.

GAMAA President Ross Jamieson said it was no surprise that after numerous announcements from the Victorian Climate Action, Energy and Resources Minister, Lily D'Ambrosio, limiting the gas sector and seeking to restrict gas use that companies no longer see the state as a viable operating base.

"The Minister last year went on record stating that the Victorian Government's policies have not resulted in any job losses," Mr Jamieson said. "When GAMAA approached her with evidence of job losses and predicted job losses she noted it was not the responsibility of her portfolio."

"That shows a callous disregard for Victorian workers and the homes and businesses that rely on gas.

"Gas appliance manufacturing has had a strong presence in Victoria with majority of companies historically based in the state. It is a sector that has supported blue-collared hard-working Victorians and their families with stable and good paying jobs.

"With no other Labor state government following the Victorian government's ideological stance on gas – it should come with no shock to the Minister that companies will opt to operate and support the economy of other Australian states.

"Unless the Victorian Government reconsiders the measures that have already been implemented against our industry and plans that are to come – Seeley International's decision will be the first of many others. The industry has projected that there will be an additional 1300 job losses."

GAMAA has and will continue to advocate for a sensible transition to net zero by 2050. It has repeatedly pledged to work with the government approach on sensible or pragmatic measures to achieve those goals.

"GAMAA appreciates the need for clean energy sources, however untimely disconnection of gas will result in undue cost pressures on consumers and rapidly increasing number of job losses," Mr Jamieson said.

"It also extinguishes any future prospects of a thriving renewable gas market in the state and increases our dependence on an increasingly unreliable coal-based electricity grid."

Contact: Matthew Doman 0421 888 858 / mdoman@hadvisorsapa.au