



14 November 2024

NEW GAS BAN LAWS DON'T STACK UP FROM ANY ANGLE

The Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association of Australia (GAMAA) today expressed its deep disappointment at the signing into law of the Building Legislation Amendment 2024 which give the energy minister the power to ban the installation of new or replacement gas appliances in the residential and commercial sectors.

“Despite assuring Victorians the government would not touch their gas cooktops, the government has rammed through legislation that gives them the power to do exactly that, including voting down an amendment that would exclude cooktops from the scope of any future bans,” said GAMAA president Ross Jamieson.

“This has all been done before the work has been completed on a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) or any consultation with the public and industry.

“It’s very clear that the government has made its mind up to go after your gas appliances and that you cannot trust verbal assurances from this government.”

“None of the arguments being pushed by the government in support of these bans stack up.”

“Immediately after the Energy Minister claimed Victoria was running out of gas, she appeared on 7.30 report to guarantee Victorians will have sufficient gas to meet demand, a commitment repeated when the legislation for new offshore gas storage passed last week.”

“Nor does forced electrification save consumers money as claimed or reduce emissions. Independent research undertaken by Frontier Economics estimated that forcing conversion of ducted gas heating and hot water in homes could see extra costs of up \$27,000 and possibly more for older houses.

We also know from research that dual fuel houses have lower greenhouse gas emissions and cost less to build than all electric households.

Blanket bans simply make all Victorians worse off by removing choice and flexibility and impose higher costs right across the economy.”

The Australian Energy Market Operator predicts a rise in gas demand from 2030 as more gas-fired generation is needed to provide backup for renewable energy and rising electricity, in part due to increased electrification.

“In large part it’s just shifting gas demand from one sector to another while pushing up prices in both’ he noted.

“Broad bans would have a devastating impact on jobs and industry shifting companies and services interstate and overseas, all without any compensation for the livelihoods that are destroyed. Our appliance manufacturers and gas suppliers are a critical part of the clean energy transition so it’s important that we do not destroy this industry and lose those skills.”

More than 60 per cent of gas appliances sold in Australia are made in Australia, with GAMAA members employing around 4000 people, many in regional centres.

Contact: Tom Wald 0411 305 449 / Tom.Wald@H-Advisors.global