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## **VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT TAKES A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION ON GAS APPLIANCES**

The Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association of Australia (GAMAA) welcomes the Victorian Government's announcement regarding its new electrification and efficiency standards and regulations for Victorian buildings.

GAMAA President Ross Jamieson said it was a step in the right direction.

"Enforcing a one size fits all regulation would have caused serious hip pocket pain to struggling Victorians and devastated the local industry," Mr Jamieson said.

"Today's announcement is welcome news but there is more work to be done to make sure families aren't made worse off under the Government's proposed changes.

"This includes exemptions for rental properties so that the cost of forced electrification for landlords isn't then passed onto tenants.

"Our research found switching from gas to electric appliances could cost as much as an additional \$30,000 in upfront costs for landlords. Such costs would likely lead to hikes in rents with some estimates as high as \$65 a week.

"Work needs to be done to avoid perverse outcomes such as tenants being left with higher rents or inadequate heating.

"It is for these reasons that we look forward to working with the Victorian Government to ensure the final regulations, exemptions and detail make sense and don't add even more financial pressure to Victorian households."

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