

21 December 2016

Mr Liam Ryan
Office of Environment and Heritage
Level 14
59-61 Goulburn Street
SYDNEY NSW

DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIC PLAN AND A DRAFT PLAN TO SAVE NSW ENERGY AND MONEY SUBMISSION

Dear Mr Ryan

Gas Energy Australia (GEA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the *Office of Environment and Heritage's Draft Climate Change Strategic Plan* and a *Draft Plan to Save NSW Energy and Money*. We are also grateful for the opportunity for representatives of GEA to meet with you and other members of the Office of Environment and Heritage Task Force developing these Plans.

As the peak industry body for downstream gaseous fuels, GEA is keen to contribute to the NSW Government's development of a policy framework that will facilitate environmental and economic benefits into the future.

Moreover, our submission is not about using gaseous fuels instead of renewables. Rather, it suggests that NSW is in a unique position to take advantage of the benefits of cleaner, cheaper gaseous fuels. But to do so, GEA encourages the NSW Government to consider a more technology neutral policy. This would allow different products and technologies to compete objectively based on carbon reduction and minimise the financial burden of meeting environmental targets.

We welcome assurances given during our discussions with your Taskforce that all energy options are on the table and none have been ruled in or out at this stage. Nevertheless, this is not reflected in the document which seems to be mainly focussed on renewables with scant references to gas, when in fact, gas can assist NSW meet its emission reduction targets. GEA encourages the NSW Government to be more explicit when discussing its technology neutrality policy.

Indeed, we remain concerned that the draft plans are based around NSW meeting its Renewable Energy Target (RET). There appears to be limited funding available for any fuels that do not assist NSW in meeting the RET regardless of how effective the energy source may be in reducing emissions. GEA considers that this applies to gaseous fuels, and that the NSW Government is limiting its own contribution to the climate change goals by doing so.

GEA provides more details in our responses to the questions in the *Draft Climate Change Strategic Plan* and a *Draft Plan to Save NSW Energy and Money* – Submission Form.

Included as part of our submission, is our *Vision for LPG Stationary Energy Liquefied Petroleum Gas* http://www.cleanercheaperfuels.com.au/ccf-content/uploads/2014/10/GEA_LPG2030Vision_LR.pdf and *A 2030 Vision for Natural Gas Fuels – CNG and LNG* http://www.cleanercheaperfuels.com.au/ccf-content/uploads/2014/10/GEA_NGF2030VisionUpdate_V1.pdf, which both include a 10 Point Plan for

industry and government to use to work together to take control of our energy future by embracing cleaner and cheaper local energy sources for domestic use.

NSW can lead other states in adopting cleaner, cheaper and readily available Australian gaseous fuels as part of its energy mix into the future while at the same time see significant reductions in emissions.

We would be more than happy to discuss our submission with you in more detail.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Griffiths", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Griffiths
Chief Executive Officer