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## Electrification-mad Lilly takes aim at Victorian Barbeques

Gas Energy Australia (GEA) was surprised by the Victorian Energy Minister Lilly D'Ambrosio's choice to take aim at Victorian barbeques, requiring barbeques running on reticulated natural gas to convert to electric under modelling in the recent Building Electrification Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).

The Building Electrification RIS which aims to make natural gas appliance installation and replacement illegal, clearly states – *barbecues connected to the reticulated gas network would be required to electrify*

This is despite the Victorian Government claiming LPG will be exempt from any ban, and despite both LPG and natural gas having recognised decarbonisation pathways which can be cost competitive with electrification.

"Requiring electrification of Victorian barbeques shows just how out of touch the Victorian Energy Minister is with everyday Victorians," Mr McCollum said, "I cannot recall any politician who has taken aim at the barbeque like this. Not even the Greens have gone this far."

LPG appliances were said to be exempt from Victoria's proposed gas ban. But the suggestion of electrifying natural gas barbeques instead of converting them to LPG raises serious questions about the validity of Building Electrification RIS modelling, and about Victorian Government intent.

"In a cost-of-living crisis, all options need to be on the table. I'm concerned the Victorian Government didn't consider the lower upfront cost of moving natural gas customers onto LPG in the RIS," Mr McCollum said, "There is no shortage of LPG in Victoria, and LPG supply can be decarbonised."

"I encourage Victorians to compare the upfront cost of converting their home from natural gas to LPG alongside electrification costs," Mr McCollum said, "If gas supply is an issue, LPG can be a solution."

"Combined with access to renewable forms of LPG in the future, converting to LPG may be a lower cost pathway to natural gas decarbonisation than electrification for some Victorians."

"While the Victorian Government decided it was going to electrify residential appliances years ago, the world has moved on from an electrify-everything approach to decarbonisation."

"Victorian industry and businesses have been afforded the right to pursue renewable fuels, gases and forms of LPG. It's about time Victorian residents were afforded the same right to choose how they decarbonise, especially where renewable fuel options can come at lower upfront cost."

### About Gas Energy Australia:

GEA is the peak body representing Australia's LPG industry. Committed to promoting the safe, efficient, and sustainable use of LPG for homes, businesses, and industries, GEA is focused on enabling the transition to renewable forms of LPG in support of a net zero future.

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