



Bioenergy Australia (Forum) Pty Ltd

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Bioenergy Australia Submission – Future Gas Strategy for Tasmania

Bioenergy Australia (BA) is the national industry association committed to accelerating Australia's bio economy. Our mission is to foster the bioenergy sector to generate jobs, secure investment, maximise the value of local resources, minimise waste and environmental impact, and develop and promote national bioenergy expertise into international markets.

Australia's Bioenergy Roadmap (ARENA, November 2021) outlines how, by the start of the next decade, Australia's bioenergy sector could contribute to around \$10 billion in extra GDP per annum and 26,200 new jobs, reduce emissions by about 9 per cent, divert an extra 6 per cent of waste from landfill, and enhance fuel security. Now is the time to capitalise on these opportunities and we commend the Tasmanian Government in progressing the development of a Future Gas Strategy for Tasmania and congratulate the Government on its acknowledgement of Biomethane in decarbonising Tasmania's gas market.

Bioenergy Australia established Australia's Renewable Gas Alliance (RGA) to accelerate decarbonisation of Australia's gas network through increased deployment of biomethane. This submission is on behalf of the RGA and will be supported by individual member submissions relating their specific expertise. The RGA has over 80 member organizations, including gas pipeline owners, gas retailers, project developers, technology providers, off takers, research organizations, and state and local government representatives.

BA and the RGA acknowledge and support the following:

- observation that gas is important to the operation and continued viability of many of Tasmania's large industrial operations,
- recognition of biogas and biomethane in the decarbonisation pathway and the opportunity they create for increased local energy security,
- the importance of Government actions for aiding renewable gasses to transition from our current state to biogas and biomethane becoming widely available and with more rapid uptake by both communities and industry through:
 - action 3 – supporting the development of Tasmania's bioenergy and biogas industries
 - action 8 – the requirement for Emissions Reduction and Resilience Planning
 - action 9 – the adoption of renewable gasses by Government
 - action 10 – working with Industry, and
 - action 11 – reviewing the Tasmanian Future Gas Strategy within five years, and
- actions to achieve renewable gas certification, either nationally or at a state level.

Some additional comments we would like to provide:

Bioenergy and biogas

BA is deeply appreciative of the inclusion of our sector and suggests the value of the bioenergy and biogas section would be enhanced by expanding it to observe:

- There are significant existing biogas sources already available in Tasmania (Australia's Bioenergy Roadmap¹ indicates that Tasmania has theoretical reserves of 92PJ per annum from across forestry, organic wastes and agriculture.).
- Using biogas or biomethane from the upgrading of biomethane is substantially more affordable than hydrogen production currently and hence is a strong option for early uptake of renewable gas (as evidenced by the previous findings of Oakley Greenwood on pricing plus rapid biomethane uptake occurring under all modelled scenarios for the Victorian Gas Substitution Roadmap²).

Supporting the development of Tasmania's domestic bioenergy and biogas industries

BA appreciates the direct referencing of the developing Bioenergy Vision in the draft Strategy. If there is any energy-related or organics resource recovery funding to become available beyond the Boiler Replacement Action Plan, it would be valuable if timing would allow for it to be outlined in the final Strategy too. This would assist with industry investment confidence and promote uptake of biomethane by gas consumers given the earlier discussion of the \$50 million Tasmanian Renewable Hydrogen Development Funding Program.

Other Market Measures Supporting a Transition – certification schemes

The lack of a green gas certification scheme is a key barrier to the uptake of biomethane by large gas users. Accordingly, BA greatly values the actions discussed to achieve renewable gas certification at a national or for Tasmanian renewable energy. BA's Renewable Gas Alliance is strongly advocating for certification at the national level and would help support Tasmanian government's efforts.

BA observes that the Australian Government is currently consulting about the Guarantee of Origin Scheme and hopes that the Tasmanian Government use this opportunity to encourage that the Australian Government include additional renewable gasses, particularly biomethane, in the scheme as an urgent priority.

Other Market Measures Supporting a Transition – organic waste recovery

BA observes that consultation on the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Board's draft *Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2022-2025* is currently open. The draft Strategy proposes identification of opportunities to increase the range and capacity of organic collection services (eg food and garden organic waste collections) and the introduction of new processing technologies. It is also proposed that an ongoing process be developed to analyse key product, material and waste flows and impacts on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to inform future decision making.

¹ ENEA Australia Pty Ltd and Deloitte Financial Advisory Pty Ltd for ARENA, [Australia's Bioenergy Roadmap](#), 2021.

² Victorian State Government, [Victoria's Gas Substitution Roadmap](#), 2022.

As increasing food and green waste services in Tasmania will support biogas (and hence biomethane) feedstock quality and quantity together with promoting a more circular economy, it may be useful for this waste policy work to be referenced in the final Strategy also.

We congratulate the Tasmanian Government for working to rapidly decarbonise its gas network. BA has published a number of reports in recent years that may be helpful in further progressing Tasmania's Future Gas Strategy. These include:

[Fertile Ground: The role of digestate in Australia's circular economy \(April 2022\)](#)

[Turning Circle: How bioenergy can supercharge Australia's circular economy \(April 2022\)](#)

[Biomethane Gas Injection Report \(April 2022\)](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. Please send any comments or queries to myself at shahana@bioenergyaustralia.org.au or 0439 555 764.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shahana McKenzie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shahana McKenzie, CEO Bioenergy Australia