

Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania  
Tasmanian Government  
GPO Box 147  
Hobart TAS 7001

Via email: [gas.strategy@recfit.tas.gov.au](mailto:gas.strategy@recfit.tas.gov.au)

## **RE: TASMANIA'S DRAFT FUTURE GAS STRATEGY**

Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Tasmanian Government on its draft Future Gas Strategy (the draft strategy) and supports the Tasmanian Government's efforts to transition to a decarbonised future. GBCA also commends the Tasmanian Government for having maintained net negative emissions for the past seven consecutive years.

We recognise the challenges faced by the State and Territory governments across Australia in developing and implementing decarbonisation pathways while ensuring the measures do not adversely impact on economic growth and employment in their regions.

GBCA is a national industry association for Australia's sustainable development industry, working to deliver buildings and communities that are healthy, productive, sustainable and resilient. With our members, who reflect the diversity of Australian business, we are committed to playing a leading role in accelerating the transition to a modern, decarbonised built environment.

GBCA aims to achieve a climate positive – and fossil-fuel free – built environment and we encourage and advocate for solutions that will achieve this most effectively, efficiently and equitably.

Following extensive consultation with industry and government, GBCA has developed the [Climate positive roadmap](#) for the built environment which plots a world-leading pathway to raise the benchmark for sustainable design, construction and building operation in Australia's built environment. The Climate Positive Pathway will be embedded within all Green Star rating tools to ensure that all Green Star-certified projects will play their part in the collective effort to try and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees and meet Australia's commitments under the Paris Agreement.

The Government Actions listed in the draft strategy will play an important role in meeting Tasmania's targets, creating economic opportunities and supporting the community in a just transition to zero carbon.

Energy efficiency should be prioritised over all actions as it is cost effective and uses technology and practices already available. It eases pressure on peak demand and the energy grid, which will also help to ease the transition away from natural gas. Energy efficient technology, such as heat pumps for heating spaces and water can divert reliance on natural gas. Energy efficiency also has benefits for households and businesses through reduced energy bills. Implementing a program of funded energy efficiency measures will also be important for supporting vulnerable and low-income households.

Removing fossil fuels from buildings is a critical element of global efforts to reduce carbon emissions. A new report from the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC), [Unlocking the pathway: Why electrification is the key to net zero buildings](#), confirms 100% electrification is the lowest cost, fastest emissions reduction pathway for Australia's built environment with projected savings of \$50 billion (compared to business as usual).

Both the extraction and use of natural gas poses risks to human health as well as the environment and GBCA notes the ACT Government's leadership in ceasing to allow natural gas connections in future new developments.

GBCA recommends that the Tasmanian Government's future gas strategy also includes actions to support electrification of the built environment as well as other sectors such as transport and industry. In 2022, GBCA released [A practical guide to electrification: For new buildings](#) and [A practical guide to electrification: For existing buildings](#) which may be useful resources in developing future electrification policy and programs.

Renewable gases such as biogas and hydrogen will have a part to play in the transition to a zero carbon economy, particularly for some manufacturing and industrial processes which are challenging to decarbonise. While the ASBEC report shows electrification combined with green hydrogen can deliver savings of \$22 billion in transitioning the built environment, it is dependent on technology breakthroughs and requires significant studies into materials compatibility; there are significant uncertainties in green hydrogen availability and gas grid transformation.

Should you require any further information on any of the points noted above, or to arrange further consultation, please do not hesitate to contact Shay Singh, Senior Manager Policy and Government Relations, via email at [shay.singh@gbca.org.au](mailto:shay.singh@gbca.org.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Rooney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'D' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Davina Rooney  
Chief Executive  
Green Building Council of Australia