

15 August 2022

Tim Stock
Director, Hydrogen and Clean Energy
Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Via: greenpower.admin@planning.nsw.gov.au

Energy Networks Australia's response to the GreenPower Program Review

Dear Mr Stock

Energy Networks Australia (ENA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the GreenPower Project Review consultation paper.

ENA is the national industry body representing Australia's electricity transmission and distribution and gas distribution networks. Our members provide more than 16 million electricity and gas connections to almost every home and business across Australia.

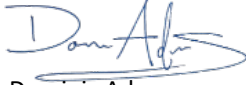
Both electricity and gas networks are decarbonising. Electricity networks are facilitating the continued build out of renewable generation and customer energy resources, while ensuring safe and reliable supply. The focus to date of decarbonisation has been on the electricity sector, yet gas networks are on their own decarbonisation journey. Gas customers tell us that they are seeking a clean energy future and are engaged in achieving emission reductions from their gas use. New renewable fuels, such as hydrogen and biomethane, have the potential to become mainstream and complementary energy solutions that will use existing gas supply infrastructure. Our gas networks are leading the development of renewable gas projects and blending renewable hydrogen in the Adelaide and Sydney gas distribution networks, with further projects under development for Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland.

ENA supports the GreenPower Program. We support the program's objectives in achieving decarbonisation. We think it is important to expand the Program where possible to include renewable gas, including biomethane and hydrogen, and to introduce a voluntary mechanism for renewable gas. The expansion is important to provide consumers with choice to support their own personal transition to renewable sources of energy, including both renewable electricity and gas.

The program can support the development of a renewable gas market. ENA supports a clean energy transition at the lowest cost possible for consumers. The most affordable, secure, and reliable future energy grid is likely to include renewable electricity and repurposing existing gas networks with renewable gas. This will ensure we continue to have diversity of energy supply to ride through droughts in renewable generation – and retain customer choice.

Should you have any queries please contact ENA's Head of Renewable Gas, Dr Dennis Van Puyvelde, dvanpuyvelde@energynetworks.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Adams".

Dominic Adams

General Manager - Networks