



Yarra Climate Action Now
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Re Motion No 6: Phasing Out Of Gas Use at Council Venues and Operations

YCAN has spoken out against the use of gas for energy at Council since at least 2011, in the first case arguing against proposals for gas cogeneration. Gas is a non-renewable, emissions producing fossil fuel. The issue was recently brought to the forefront by one of our member's reading of the following article from Renew Economy on January 2019.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/new-estates-are-being-forced-to-install-gas-pipelines-this-is-wrong-10697/>

This article caused us to consider use of gas energy in Yarra, both in Council operations, private residences and non-Council public buildings. Yarra has taken great steps in becoming carbon neutral, (wind farm, solar installation, waste minimisation initiatives etc) but emissions from gas are now rising.

The above report presents shocking reading. It references many studies which highlight the very dangerous emissions from gas exploration. Though the industry likes to boast that it produces fewer emissions in use than coal, the mining has a large carbon intensive footprint, plus fugitive emissions during transport. The report suggests that the full exploitation of Western Australia's gas reserves would lead to higher emissions than the Adani coal mine!

Increasing research on the dangerous effects on health is also emerging, with the suggestion that use of domestic gas causes respiratory disease in children. (I'll be interested to hear Dr Fiona Armstrong speak at Thursday's Climate Emergency forum).

Also noted, are the mandatory measures in some new housing developments, eg, Mt Barker in South Australia to force residents to depend on gas.

Of course, YCAN has also been pushing Council for some time to declare, and act upon recognition of Climate Emergency. Thus with this declaration, the development of the Climate Emergency policy and the Forum happening this week, we strongly commend Cr McEvoy's timely motion.