

16 March 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 and GreenPower Qualtrics portal

Energy Networks Australia's response to the GreenPower Renewable Gas Certification PILOT

Dear Mr Stock

Energy Networks Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the GreenPower Renewable Gas Certification PILOT consultation paper.

Energy Networks Australia 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, while ensuring safe and reliable supply. The focus to date of decarbonisation has been on the electricity sector, but gas networks are on their own decarbonisation journey. Customers tell us that they are seeking a clean energy future and are engaged in achieving emission reductions from gas use. New renewable fuels, such as hydrogen and biomethane, have the potential to become mainstream and complementary energy solutions that will use existing energy 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 is supportive of GreenPower's approach for a PILOT certification scheme for renewable gas. We think it is important for the PILOT to focus on biomethane and hydrogen as priorities and to consider other renewable fuels at a later stage. We are supportive of the boundaries proposed for the life cycle assessment and the proposed decoupled approach for the chain of custody. The practical aspects of the PILOT could inform other certification programs such as the Hydrogen GO scheme and the development of renewable gas certification schemes by the Clean Energy Regulator.

The PILOT can support the development of a renewable gas market. This in turn could support the broadening of building schemes such as Green Star and the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council to include renewable gas within their programs as well as renewable electricity. This is currently a limitation of those building schemes that is limiting new opportunities for renewable gas.

We have provided responses to the consultation questions via the portal.

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

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Dillon

CEO