



Jerrabomberra Residents Association Inc.

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SUBMISSION: EVOENERGY REVISED GAS PLAN

The Jerrabomberra Residents' Association (JRA) is an incorporated community organisation representing approximately 7,000 residents in the 2619 postcode within the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council local government area. Established in the early 1990s, the JRA has grown into one of the most active advocacy groups in the Queanbeyan–Canberra region, representing local interests at local, state and federal levels. While fostering Jerrabomberra's strong community spirit, the JRA draws on its members' skills and experience to advocate on infrastructure, planning, and service delivery issues affecting our suburb.

The JRA is deeply concerned that the draft electricity plan does not include a provision for a comprehensive, multi-channel advertising campaign to inform our community of the proposed closure of the gas network. Our community needs to be aware that this change is being driven solely by the ACT Government's policy objective to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 and to progressively decommission the gas network between 2025 and 2040.

Our community is uniquely disadvantaged because we are connected to the ACT gas network rather than operating as a standalone New South Wales system. As a result, we will bear the consequences and costs of the network closure without receiving any government assistance to support the transition, despite the policy being initiated by the ACT Government. In our suburb, a significant proportion of homes rely on gas for heating and cooking. Many existing gas heating systems are nearing the end of their life, and households are currently assessing cost-effective replacement options.

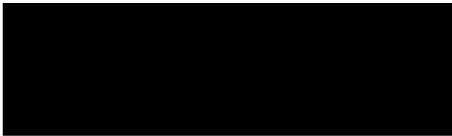
The cost of converting a home from gas to electric heating is approximately \$25,000. This represents a substantial financial outlay for many families. Without clear and timely communication about the planned network closure, residents may invest in replacing gas heating systems, only to find that the network is decommissioned once

the ACT Government achieves its policy targets. While ACT residents have been offered financial incentives to support their transition away from gas, no equivalent assistance has been made available to affected NSW residents.

We are further concerned that those who remain connected to the gas network may be households that lack the financial capacity to transition. These residents could face escalating costs to maintain a diminishing network, only to ultimately lose access to gas for heating and cooking altogether.

We strongly urge that as part of the plan that Evoenergy make it a priority to inform the NSW community of the proposed gas network closure so that residents can make informed, forward-looking decisions. At recent Evoenergy community engagement forums held in Queanbeyan, many participants expressed surprise upon learning of the proposal, highlighting the current gap in public awareness.

Kind regards



Margot Sachse
President

Cc;
Hon. Steve Whan MP Member for Monaro
NSW Cross Border Commissioner Kalina Koloff
Hon Kristy McBain MP, Federal member for Eden-Monaro