

De Mamiel, Helen

Subject: FW: submission on business case for gas connection to Mount Barker reference 64192 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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From: Ian Grosser <igrosser@mountbarker.sa.gov.au>

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To: AER Inquiry <aerinqury@aer.gov.au>

Subject: submission on business case for gas connection to Mount Barker reference 64192

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my thoughts.

I believe that AGN's business case, which has received draft approval, is flawed because it relies on anti-competitive mandatory gas connections and misleading information about the cost and emissions benefits of gas.

AGN make unsubstantiated claims of \$900 savings per year and 52% reduction in carbon emissions in dual fuel homes. A recent report by the Alternative Technology Association "Household Fuel Choice in the National Energy Market" found that all electric homes, especially those with modest solar PV arrays, were significantly cheaper and had lower emissions than dual fuel homes. Mandatory gas connections lock consumers out of the benefits of rapidly improving technologies in renewable energy and the efficiency of electric appliances. Already modern reverse cycle air conditioning and heat pumps are cheaper for heating and cooling than gas, especially considering the cost of second connection to a fuel source.

Anti-competitive mandatory gas connection also excludes progressive low energy builders from participating in an estate with that requirement.

AGN's figures, based on mandatory connections, can't be relied on as they are subject to possible future intervention, including by the ACCC, to restore fair competition and trading and subject to legislative challenge. Legislative intervention to prevent mandatory connections through housing contracts are likely in the future should our state or federal government decide that robust action is required to counter climate change.

The views above are personal and do not represent Mount Barker District Council.

Ian Grosser

Mount Barker Councillor

Mandatory connection penalises home buyers

Ian Grosser

Councillor - Central Ward



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