



Building 8 Level 4, 584 Swan St
Burnley VIC 3121
T (03) 9280 8200
hia.com.au

13 December 2023

Essential Services Commission
By email (energyreform@esc.vic.gov.au)

To whom it may concern,

Gas Distribution System Code of Practice review

Thank you for inviting HIA to comment on the *Gas Distribution System Code of Practice* review (November).

The Housing Industry (HIA) is Australia's peak residential building industry association. HIA exists to service the businesses it represents, advocate for the best possible business environment for the building industry and to encourage a responsible and quality driven, affordable residential building sector.

HIA considers that the current pricing framework is appropriate. As such we do not recommend material changes to the existing method of costs recovery for new gas connection charges.

High energy connection (and disconnection) costs, whether for gas or electricity, add to the cost of building new homes. While we understand the Victorian Government's electrification strategy may see less gas connections over time, by the ESC's own admission, substantial numbers of new connections to the gas network could still go ahead over the next few years and the proposal to change or introduce new connection charge methodology may create additional barriers for customers who need a gas connection to their premises.

Should you wish to discuss the views in this submission with us, please feel free to contact either myself [REDACTED] or our Victorian Senior Planning Advisor, Roger Cooper [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

HOUSING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION LIMITED

[REDACTED]
Keith Ryan
Executive Director - Victoria