



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Natural
Gas Transition) Amendment Bill 2022

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To: [LA Committee - ECCB](#)
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Dear Committee

I am writing to express my concerns about the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Natural Gas Transition) Amendment Bill 2022 and I am asking that changes to be made to the Bill.

I have recently signed a contract for a knock down after receiving quotes from three highly regarded Canberra builders. All three builders quoted on the assumption that we would be able to connect gas to the property once it is built. On the day I signed up with my selected builder, I heard the news that the ACT Government would not allow any new gas connections from 1 January 2023, including in older suburbs where houses already have a gas connection. I raised this directly with my builder who did not believe this was an issue because he hadn't received any information about the new policy from the ACT Government or building certifiers. It seems the ACT Government has not sufficiently communicated this policy to the building sector before introducing this Bill.

The five months between the introduction of the legislation and its proposed start date of 1 January 2023 fails to recognise the current lead times associated with new building projects. The current supply chain issues mean that there is now a 12 to 18 month lead time to build a new house in Canberra. The cost of building an energy efficient home in Canberra has significantly increased with inflationary pressures. In my case, the cost of the build is already 30 per cent more than originally estimated when I started looking for a builder. But this doesn't just affect me. There will be many Canberrans who have signed contracts, selected and paid for gas appliances in the last six months who won't be able to connect these because their home won't be finished until next year or even later. Many won't know about the policy until they try to re-connect their gas in the new year.

I support government policies that seek to mitigate and respond to climate change. However, those policies need to involve a transition that is fair, reasonable and takes account of the current reality faced by Canberrans who are trying to build new homes.

I am therefore asking that the bill be amended so that it does not take effect until the end of 2024 and that the government make further efforts to communicate the policy to builders in Canberra. There should also be an exemption from the policy for people who have signed a building contract before the legislation and there should be an exemption for people who are reconnecting an existing gas connection that was only disconnected to enable building works to be undertaken safely.

Kind regards

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