**18-199 Gas Infrastructure Policy**

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| **Summary of Impacts** |
| * The proposed change would provide for market-based decision making on investment decisions for gas infrastructure in Stage 2 of the Ginninderry development.
* The proposed change will assist in meeting the ACT Government’s commitment to interim climate change mitigation targets.
* The effect on dividend payments to the Territory derived from its part ownership of Evoenergy is unlikely to have a material impact due to the small number of homes in Ginninderry ‘Neighbourhood 1’.
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*Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue - neutral and Green - Positive.*

**Environmental**

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| **Natural resources** | * Moving to all-electric appliances, in an environment where 100 per cent of electricity is being provided from renewable sources, will reduce reliance on finite gas resources.
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| **Greenhouse gas emissions** | * As the ACT moves toward 100 per cent renewable electricity, moving to electrical appliances will reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.
* The proposed change will assist in meeting the ACT Government’s commitment to interim climate change targets, and will further reinforce the Government’s commitment to 100 per cent renewable electricity.
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| **Environmental quality** | * Please see comment on “Greenhouse gas emissions”.
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| **Air** | * Please see comment on “Greenhouse gas emissions”.
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**Social**

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| **Access to Services** | * There is not expected to be any arbitrary or unjustified exclusion from essential services or facilities as electricity must still be provided to all blocks.
* A connection to the gas network will still be available to customers who request the service.
* No adverse deprivation of essential services or financial disadvantage is expected to result from the proposed expansion of the trial.
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| **Housing and affordable housing** | * While the price of energy efficient electrical appliances may present an increase to the purchase price of the new dwellings, this will be offset by the energy savings provided by the appliances.
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| **Human rights** | * The proposal is not contrary to the *Human Rights Act 2004* (HR Act) as the deregulation of the mandatory requirement for gas infrastructure in parts or all of Ginninderry Stage 2 is not discriminatory as sufficient energy utilities in the form of electricity infrastructure will still be provided to every block in the estate.
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| **Disadvantaged and vulnerable** | * There is no disadvantage envisaged from limiting the provision of energy to electricity only, as all essential home requirements such as hot water, space heating, cooling and cooking can be provided through efficient electrical appliances and services.
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**Economic**

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| **ACT Government Budget** | * The proposal could demonstrate and build a future case to limit the further rollout of the gas network in new suburbs. This could have revenue implications for Evoenergy, and therefore implications for dividend payments made to the Territory (as a shareholder of Evoenergy, through ICON water). However, Evoenergy could expect to collect increased electricity network revenues, and offset the effect on dividend payments to the Territory.
* ACT Treasury has previously advised that the effect on dividend payments is not of significant consequence for the ACT Government budget if applied to Stage 1 of the Ginninderry estate (350 homes). Given a maximum of 1165 homes is being proposed, it is unlikely to have a material impact.
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| **Productivity and innovation** | * The proposal to not require the mandatory installation of reticulated gas in certain stages of the Ginninderry Estate will not have an impact on productivity.
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| **Investment and economic growth** | * Presently, decisions to install gas infrastructure to new suburbs are not taken from an efficient economic investment approach but on the basis of a mandatory requirement. Expanding the no gas trial provides for developers and Evoenergy to make efficient investment decisions.
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| **Cost of living** | * While the price of energy efficient electrical appliances may present an increase to the purchase price of the new dwellings, this will be offset by the energy savings over the life of the appliances.
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| **Competition**  | * The proposal to not require the mandatory installation of reticulated gas in further stages of the Ginninderry Estate will not have an impact on competition as gas infrastructure can still be installed if desired by the developer.
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