

Energy Safety Roadmap Summary



Message from the Minister

Victoria's energy system is changing at a pace not seen before.

Homes and businesses are increasingly powered by renewable energy such as solar panels, batteries, hydrogen and bioenergy. New and emerging technologies are also continuing to develop and being used as Victoria's energy transition accelerates.

These changes are essential for reaching our climate goals, but they also bring new challenges when it comes to safety.

The Energy Safety Roadmap sets out how we will keep Victorians safe during this transition. It responds to the findings of the Energy Safety Review, which looked closely at the risks we face today and those that are likely to emerge in the years ahead.

Victoria has made great progress on energy safety over the past two decades. Fatalities and serious injuries have reduced significantly, and regulators, industry and government have worked together to improve outcomes.

But we cannot stand still. The rapid shift from a centralised, fossil-fuel system to one built on renewables means our frameworks must evolve to stay fit for purpose.

This Roadmap focuses on three key areas. First, making sure households and consumers remain safe. That means improving product standards and labelling, strengthening recall processes, and ensuring the safe installation and maintenance of solar, batteries and electric vehicle chargers. It also means providing clear information so consumers understand how to use new technologies safely.

Second, updating the regulation of the renewable energy transition. Our current energy safety laws were designed for a very different system. With hundreds of renewable generators now operating across Victoria, and many more on the way, the framework needs to be more flexible and more responsive.

The Roadmap identifies actions to modernise our legislation, strengthen oversight and ensure the state's regulator, Energy Safe Victoria, has the tools and resources it needs.

And third, energy workforce licensing and skills. The energy transition requires thousands of skilled workers to install, maintain and operate new technologies safely.

We are reviewing licensing requirements for electrical workers, plumbers and gasfitters so that qualifications keep pace with technology.

We are also working to ensure that this workforce is getting the required energy safety training and experience so the next generation of workers are ready for the jobs ahead.

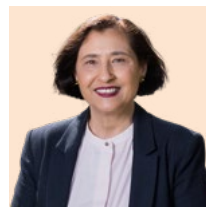
This Roadmap sets out a clear path for keeping people safe as our energy system changes.

Workers need training and the right qualifications to handle new technologies. And businesses need a framework that allows them to innovate while keeping safety front of mind.

By taking action now, we can manage risks before they become problems. We can improve coordination between regulators, strengthen the evidence base for future decisions, and make sure our safety systems remain strong as the energy transition accelerates.

Victoria has always led the way on energy reform, and this Roadmap is another step in that journey. It reflects the collective effort of industry, regulators, workers and the community.

Together, we will ensure that as our energy system transforms, safety remains at its core.



The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Energy and Resources
Minister for Climate Action
Minister for the State Electricity Commission

Improved energy safety

Victoria's changing energy safety environment

Victoria's energy landscape is undergoing a profound transformation, shifting from a centralised model of energy generation to a highly distributed system of generation and storage. In the late 1990s, the regulatory framework was designed for a system where a few large fossil-fuel power stations generated electricity, which was then transmitted and distributed to homes and businesses across the state. Today, this centralised model is being rapidly replaced by a decentralised network driven by renewable energy sources and advanced storage solutions, fundamentally reshaping how energy is produced, consumed, and managed.

The rise of distributed energy resources, particularly rooftop solar panels and behind-the-meter batteries, has empowered millions of Victorian households and businesses to generate, store, and even export electricity to the grid. This proliferation of small-scale, distributed systems contrasts sharply with the traditional reliance on large-scale generators. While these older generators remain operational, they are being progressively phased out in favour of wind and solar farms, as well as large-scale battery installations.

The existing regulatory framework, established to suit a centralised energy system, has delivered measurable safety improvements over the past two decades. However, it is increasingly misaligned with the realities of a distributed energy ecosystem.

The rapid adoption of new electrical devices, particularly battery-powered technologies, in Victorian homes has introduced new risks, such as fires caused by damaged or improperly used devices. Ensuring that only well-engineered equipment enters the market and educating consumers on safe usage is critical. Moreover, as battery and renewable technologies continue to evolve, regulations must be flexible and forward-looking to address emerging and unforeseen innovations.

Beyond electricity, there are now large numbers of Victorians electrifying their home gas appliances and potentially disconnecting from the gas network. Consumers who switch to electric may cap their pipes rather than permanently disconnect from the network, which may pose safety risks in the future if left unaddressed.

The growth of renewable energy infrastructure, such as wind and solar farms, further highlights the limitations of the current regulatory regime. Unlike traditional fossil-fuel generators, these renewable facilities are not subject to the same levies or oversight by Energy Safe Victoria, creating inconsistencies in regulation and funding. A fair and efficient regulatory system is needed to accommodate these new forms of distributed generation without imposing regulatory burdens not commensurate with the risks.

Maintaining a workforce skilled to the highest requirements is critical to ensuring safety and supporting this shift. Balancing the need for skilled workers from outside Victoria with the preservation of high Victorian training and licensing standards presents an ongoing challenge.

Victoria's energy system is moving from a centralised, fossil-fuel-based model to a dynamic, distributed network of renewable generation and storage. This fundamental shift demands that the regulatory framework evolve to ensure safety, fairness, and adaptability to support Victoria's renewable energy future.

What we will do – actions to keep Victorian's safe

Ensure Victorians remain safe



There is a rapid increase in the number and nature of electrical equipment¹ coming into Victorian households and businesses, many of which have Li-ion batteries in them. Energy Safe Victoria will be given increased flexibility around timing and processes for incorporating new standards. This section focuses on electrical equipment and installations used by Victorians, such as appliances, solar panels, and battery systems. Issues relating to e-scooters, e-bikes and other mobility devices are addressed separately below.

¹ Electrical equipment includes devices such as mobile phones and e-scooters, as well as appliances such as heat pumps and induction cooktops.

What we will do – actions to keep Victorian’s safe (continued)

Ensure Victorians remain safe (continued)

Clear and consistent product labelling is essential for consumers to identify safe electrical products. A stronger approach to labelling and product recalls will give consumers greater confidence, and allow Energy Safe Victoria and other regulators a faster and more effective way to act when products are found to be unsafe.



Increasing numbers of Victorian homes have solar panels and battery systems. Poor maintenance or lack of consumer awareness can increase the risks from these systems. We will build on existing guidance on operation and maintenance to continue to help consumers, installers and emergency services manage these risks.

Consumer understanding of energy safety remains uneven. Additionally, Victoria will work with the Commonwealth and other states and territories to ensure consistent messaging.

E-scooters, e-bikes and similar devices



An increasing range of e-scooters, e-bikes and similar devices are being used by Victorians. Improved flexibility around standards, better labelling and product recall, along with increased consumer education will reduce the energy safety-related risks of these products.

Electric vehicles



Safety risks associated with electric vehicles and charging are generally well controlled. Risks may arise from factors such as faulty or poorly installed charging infrastructure, lack of maintenance, and the use of non-compliant products. Electric vehicles are relatively safer than e-scooters, e-bikes and similar devices, therefore it is important not to conflate these technology types.

Widespread uptake of Vehicle-to-Home and Vehicle-to-Grid technology is expected soon, enabling electric vehicles to act as an alternative to dedicated domestic battery storage for households. This shift means that EVs will increasingly serve not only as a mode of transport but also as a key component of the home energy system, with similar safety, operation and maintenance considerations to household batteries. Regulatory coverage of EVs will be reviewed, and changes to legislation will occur if necessary, to ensure full, and proportionate, coverage of EV charging equipment.

Dynamic regulation of the renewable energy transition

Regulation of the renewable energy transition is complex. Regular reviews of the regulatory safety framework will enable a more dynamic approach to regulation, so the framework can adapt to the rapid changes in the energy sector.



There will be a broad, independent analysis of energy safety legislation to ensure that it is fit for purpose. A number of specific areas will be focused on. Core definitions will be examined to ensure they are not only up to date but will be future-proof for ongoing technological changes. The safety case and general duties regime will be reviewed to ensure it is appropriate for the increasingly decentralised energy generation and transmission network. The feasibility and potential benefits of consolidating the Electricity Safety Act, the Gas Safety Act and the Pipelines Act will be considered.

The current funding model of Energy Safe Victoria has led to perceptions that regulatory costs are not shared fairly across the sector. The funding model will be reviewed to ensure it is fair and fit for purpose, as the utility scale generation and transmission sector continues to evolve.

Energy workforce licensing and skills



It is essential the workforce for the renewable energy transition is appropriately skilled. Firstly, in consultation with key stakeholders, action will be taken to ensure that this workforce is getting the required energy safety training and experience. Secondly, Victoria’s licensing regime for electrical workers, plumbers and gasfitters will be reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Actions to keep Victorians safe through the renewable energy transition

The Roadmap identifies 3 Pillars in reform for Victoria's energy safety framework.

These reforms aim to make sure that:

- Victorians stay safe through the renewable energy transition
- the renewable energy transition is regulated in an agile and effective way, and
- the workforce for the renewable energy transition is appropriately trained.

These Pillars have been developed around a series of priorities:

- improving consumer safety when interacting with renewable energy products
- making sure the scope of the regulatory framework is broad and agile enough to capture new and emerging technologies and respond to new risks as they arise during the energy transition
- equipping regulators with fit-for-purpose tools and powers to manage energy safety risks
- enabling industry to innovate during periods of rapid change in technology and regulatory requirements, with transitional arrangements used where needed to support the Victorian Government's commitment to promoting business
- providing sufficient training alongside suitable licensing for workers, and
- effectively using public education to help consumers to practice safety.

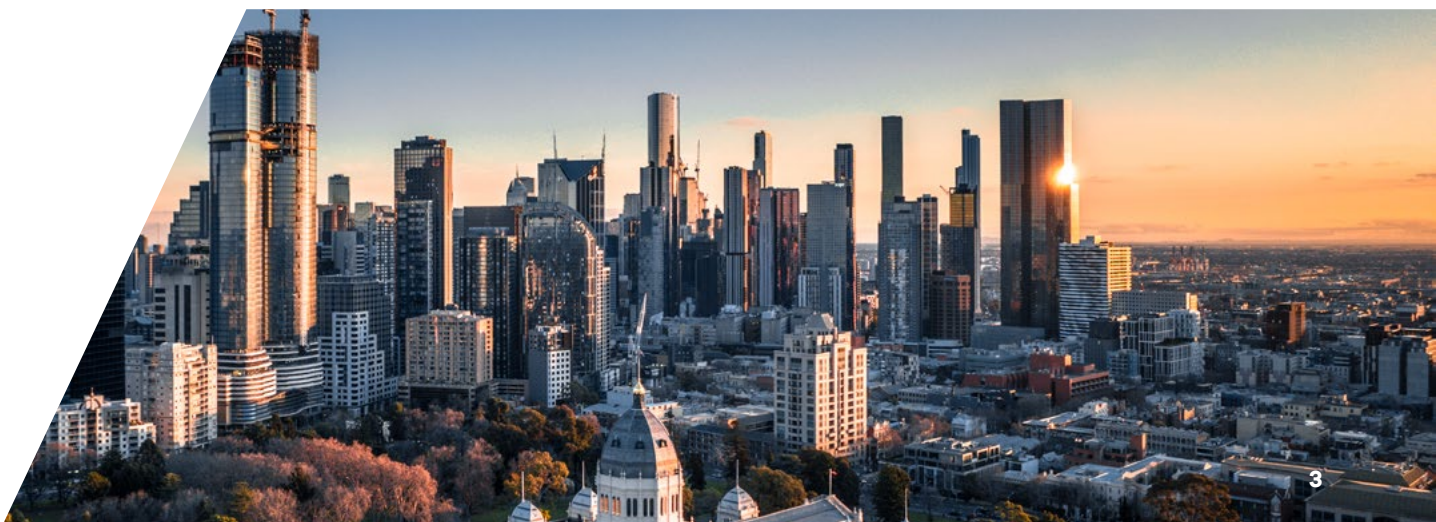
All of these actions are designed to build on the strengths of the existing energy safety regulatory framework, to enhance harmonisation and consistency across other jurisdictions, and to keep working towards regulatory best practice. They recognise the strong safety record achieved in Victoria so far, the significant work that's been

undertaken by regulators to build, and enhance, a fit-for-purpose regulatory system, and how the Commonwealth Government can support these endeavours.

The actions are in-line with the principles of best practice regulation, and mutual recognition, that have been agreed between the Australian Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments. This will help to minimise red tape and promote the freedom of movement of goods and services in a national market throughout Australia.

The actions outlined in the Pillars have been based on a series of foundational principles:

- safety risk has been defined as the risk of harm to align with existing Victorian legislation and regulatory practice
- the objective of safety regulation has been defined as regulation that mitigates the risk of harm to the extent that is "reasonably practicable," which is consistent with a general duty obligation in a regulatory context while recognising that safety risk will never be zero
- the actions are aligned with an outcome-based approach, consistent with the Victorian Government's view of regulatory best practice
- the actions set out to improve the effectiveness of safety regulation, and regulatory practice, while being as efficient as possible
- the actions prioritise what is in the remit of the Victorian Government to change, and explore other reform options that require advocacy and collaboration at a federal level.



Pillar 1: Ensuring Victorians remain safe through the renewable energy transition

The safety of Victorians while dealing with energy is vital. As the type and number of electrical equipment that consumers deal with increases at pace, so too does the potential increase in risks if they're not well managed. This highlights just how important it is to maintain the safeguards already in place, while straightening the steps taken to address emerging challenges.

Action 1: Increase flexibility around standards

Australian standards are relatively static and move at a slower pace than market innovation, creating potential for a regulatory gap. Jurisdictions adopt standards differently some automatically on the date of publication by Standards Australia, while others specify a later date, leading to inconsistency and confusion for industry and consumers. Greater flexibility with adopting standards and setting suitable commencement dates would support smoother implementation. The automatic implementation of Australian standards does not give regulators such as Energy Safe Victoria adequate time to consult with industry and unions, and prepare advice or guidance materials to support roll-out of new standards. This would also give industry greater time to prepare systems and practices as may be required by the arrival of a new standard.

Action 1A: Flexibility around application of standards

Give Energy Safe Victoria more flexibility on applying standards, such as what standards products or installations must comply with and/or the date by which a new or updated standard must be adopted. This flexibility will lead to improved safety by allowing Energy Safe Victoria to require compliance with standards to the extent they are fit-for-purpose It will also allow for the adoption also allowing the adoption of standards to be delayed where regulated entities need time to implement changes.

Action 1B: Enable Energy Safe Victoria to issue compliance codes

Explore options that would enable Energy Safe Victoria to make use of regulatory guidance tools such as compliance codes in the absence of, or in addition to, standards. If any legislative changes are required, these could be carried out in conjunction with Action 7.



Action 2: Improve product labelling and efficiency of urgent product and related materials recalls

There is a growing risk of unsafe or non-compliant electrical products entering the Victorian market due to inconsistent labelling, poor traceability and delayed recall processes. Current regulatory powers limit the ability of Energy Safe Victoria to oversee product labelling and enforce compliance with Australian standards the point of import or sale. Strengthening labelling oversight will help identify unsafe products earlier, reduce reliance on recalls, and ensure that emerging technologies and imported goods are accurately labelled and traceable. Energy Safe Victoria also has limited powers to direct product recalls outside Victorian borders, including sellers based in other states who sell to Victorian consumers.

Action 2A: Improve product labelling

The Victorian government will consider options to strengthen labelling of products in Victoria, potentially through additional powers for regulators like Energy Safe Victoria. This could include powers requiring labelling of products in respect of their

fire hazard, particularly Li-ion battery products, to support consumers and first responders where national processes are insufficient. The scale of any response would consider current and potential state and national requirements. If any regulatory or legislative changes are required, these could be done in conjunction with Action 7. Any response may be scaled, and may reflect the actions of other jurisdictions and funding priorities.

Action 2B: Product recalls

The Victorian Government is committed to working towards nationally consistent markets. The Victorian Government will work with the Commonwealth Government, Standards Australia, and first responder agencies such as the CFA and FRV to:

- Advocate with other jurisdictions and the ACCC to enable faster recall of dangerous products through compulsory powers at a national level.
- Engage with the ACCC and other governments on better coordination across jurisdictions.

Action 3: Operation and maintenance of domestic solar PV, battery storage and other emerging technologies

The Victorian Government will consult with industry and unions, to:

- Examine options for ensuring timely inspections for technologies such as solar, batteries, and EVs used as home storage, so that these systems continue to be maintained effectively in all relevant built environments, including modular or prefabricated construction.
- Improve compliance with AEMO's register of installed residential solar PV panels and energy storage systems. AEMO uses the register to fulfil its reporting obligations and manage the National Electricity Market (NEM).
- The proposed Victorian CER reforms or national CER Technical Regulator register may provide opportunities. Under these proposed programs, CER providers would be progressively required to register their businesses. Such data could inform auditors of where solar and battery systems are installed so they can be audited and rectified.

Action 4: Support and educate consumers who choose to switch to electric to do so safely

Consumers who switch to electric may disconnect rather than abolish their gas connections, giving rise to an emerging safety risk as unused gas pipelines degrade over time. There is an increasing risk that land users are unaware of the live gas infrastructure on the property and the infrastructure may not be properly maintained

Action 4A: Continue to support consumers wishing to permanently disconnect from the gas network

The Victorian Government will, in consultation with the Commonwealth Government, industry and unions, improve online educational materials for consumers who choose to move to electric, to support them to do so cost-effectively and safely.

Action 4B: Manage responsibility for dormant gas connections

The Victorian Government will, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government, industry and unions, clarify responsibilities for managing the risks

arising from dormant connections. This includes reviewing the appropriateness and effectiveness of gas retailers' and distributors' obligations relating to gas disconnections and abolishments, and providing stronger guidance for industry so that consumers are advised of the safety risks and benefits of each option.

Action 4C: Improve access to high quality data

The Victorian Government will, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government, industry and unions, work to improve access for government and industry to high quality data on dormant gas connections, to enable analysis of the safety risks, issues and trends. While the Australian Energy Regulator already collects quarterly disconnections data from gas distributors², more detailed data is needed to understand the relative risk profiles of dormant connections versus abolishments, and explore opportunities for systemic or location-based, cost-effective solutions.

Action 5: E-scooters, e-bikes and similar devices and other electrical equipment that may pose safety risks

Action 5: Consider stronger requirements for e-scooters, e-bikes and other electrical equipment that may pose safety risks

The Victorian Government will explore stronger requirements on e-scooters, e-bikes and similar devices and other electrical equipment that may pose safety risks. This may include requiring these devices to be sold with consumer-friendly marking, with specified information for consumers, and meeting specified standards.

The Victorian Government will also review the powers available to Energy Safe Victoria to appropriately regulate e-transport equipment, and consider options to strengthen regulatory tools. The scale of any response will depend on the outcomes on Energy Safe Victoria's current consultation process on these matters. If any regulatory or legislative amendments are needed, these will be carried out in conjunction with those in Action 7.

2 <https://www.aer.gov.au/publications/reports/performance/gas-quarterly-disconnection-reporting>

Action 6: Consumer education and consistent electrical standards for batteries

Recent incidents involving Li-ion batteries highlight a critical gap in consumer awareness regarding their safe operation, maintenance and disposal. Li-ion batteries are more likely to catch fire when not managed correctly. These battery fires can lead to thermal runaway and intense, persistent fires which are difficult to extinguish. As Li-ion batteries become increasingly integral to Victoria's transition to net-zero emissions, the frequency of safety incidents is expected to rise. Addressing this issue is essential for public safety and supporting the state's sustainability goals. It is also important to recognise that battery technologies will continue to evolve, and the associated risk profile will change with this evolution, requiring the regulatory framework to remain adaptable and responsive over time.

Action 6A: Assess need to strengthen education for consumers on the risk and safe practices associated with batteries

The Victorian Government will work with fire agencies and industry to assess the need for strengthened public education about battery safety. Government will collaborate with Energy Safe Victoria, fire agencies and industry to consider the need for further trusted information on batteries used in homes and in mid-to-large scale installations.

If implemented, this work will provide consumers with vital safety information, covering safe use, storage, fire prevention, and end-of-life disposal of batteries. This action notes that existing consumer education programs are already delivered by Energy Safe Victoria and other agencies.

Action 6B: Advocate for a national approach to consumer safety for products containing batteries

The Victorian Government is participating in national forums designed to require manufacturers to provide clear safety instructions and warnings with all Li-ion battery powered products. This includes a cross-jurisdictional working group, led by NSW, that is pursuing reforms under the Australian Consumer Law for information requirements and other measures to address the safe use of Li-ion battery powered e-transport devices.

States are also considering appropriate mechanisms to implement the action plan following the National Electrical Safety Taskforce's Review of the Regulatory Framework for the Safety of Household Electrical Products. These matters are then considered through national meetings of Consumer Affairs Ministers and Consumer Electrical Safety Ministers. These forums will explore potential regulatory measures which would require manufacturers to provide clear safety instructions and warnings with all Li-ion battery-powered products.

These activities aim to ensure that Li-ion battery products entering Australia through any jurisdiction will meet the same minimum requirements, providing consistent protections and education for consumers and enabling suppliers to more easily understand and comply with requirements.



Pillar 2: Dynamic regulation of the renewable energy transition

When Victoria's legislated energy safety framework was established in the 1990s, it was designed for a centralised, fossil-fuel-based electricity system that evolved slowly and predictably. Since then, some of these large generators have been retired, while solar and wind farms and utility-scale batteries have risen in prevalence. This means the framework needs significant updates too.

Action 7: Reform of the statutory energy safety framework

The Victorian Government will conduct an independent analysis of the reforms needed to ensure Victoria's statutory energy safety framework, including its Acts and Regulations, is consistent with the policy outcomes identified in the Energy Safety Review. Victoria will maintain a principles-based approach in the acts, with prescriptive details to be contained in the associated regulations. At a minimum this will address the following aspects:

- Introduce greater flexibility in adopting standards.
- Review definitions across the Acts (including the Electricity Safety Act, the Gas Safety Act, the Pipelines Act and *Dangerous Goods Act 1985*) to ensure relevance and effectiveness. This would build on reforms already being progressed by WorkSafe. The review will consider whether key definitions enable regulators to have an appropriate remit, and ensure the regulation of all significant electricity generation and storage installations are within Energy Safe Victoria's scope. At a minimum, the following definitions in the Electricity Safety Act would be reviewed: 'electrical installation', 'complex electrical installation', 'electrical equipment', and aspects relating to supply, energisation and certification. The review of definitions should also consider PV systems, and all energy storage systems that discharge electricity to the grid; how non-fixed electrical installations and systems are treated in practice, particularly those that are periodically plugged in to an external power source; and whether reforms are needed to accommodate the safety risk of offshore electrical generation.
- Consider the appropriate use of performance based versus prescriptive regulation. It would also review the appropriateness of duties, obligations and powers being contained within regulations versus primary legislation, and the need to consider streamlining regulations.

- That regulators are given flexibility to apply regulatory obligations such as general duties and the safety case regime to different duty holders that are commensurate with safety risks. The review will investigate ways to streamline the safety case process to meet future needs, while ensuring safety in the wake of a significant increase in the number, types and capacity of generation sites. The review will explore the defence provisions in the Electricity Safety Act and Gas Safety Act. The aim will be to provide a more effective and efficient safety case regime for industry. A streamlined regime would enable Energy Safe Victoria to deploy its resources to the areas of greatest and emerging safety risks.
- Regulatory instruments made under the various energy safety acts, such as the Exemption Order, will also be in scope of the analysis.
- The review will clarify that designers and engineers remain accountable to Victorian legislative requirements in regards design requirements for electrical installations, regardless of where the design originates.
- Assess the feasibility of consolidating the 4 energy safety acts, noting feedback that there are some challenges associated with having multiple acts in the energy safety framework. Benefits would potentially include reduced duplication or inconsistency of functions and powers between the acts, and reduced regulatory burden for regulated entities. This would also consider streamlining the various regulations made under each of the Acts.
- Licensing and registration requirements will also be considered in the review, covering aspects such as work on unplugged EVs, and the electrical inspection framework (see also Action 12).

The performance of the regulatory system will continue to be monitored by reviewing safety incident data and energy asset deployment, by tracking global trends and through consultation with key stakeholders.

Action 8: Assess Energy Safe Victoria’s resourcing model to give effect to regulatory responsibilities

The Victorian Government will develop an activity-based costing model which will assess required resourcing to give effect to Energy Safe Victoria’s regulatory responsibilities, while maintaining fiscal discipline for a suitable level of risk-based regulation.

This is in line with the Department of Treasury and Finance Pricing for Value Guide. As legislative changes in line with Action 7 will impact Energy Safes Victoria’s regulatory practices, this will need to consider any such changes too.

Action 9: Build a robust evidence base for future energy safety measures

In order to provide a robust evidence base for future safety measures the Victorian Government will explore a national framework for energy safety reporting with other jurisdictions to:

- Consider a centralised framework for energy safety reporting to the Victorian Government.
- Improve visibility of energy safety risks, harms and causes.
- Identify reporting mechanisms that could be implemented to improve coordination of the oversight of novel energy safety risks and energy safety events, no matter the sector, product or technology.
- Work toward harmonisation of safety compliance standards that enable integrated reporting from the regulated community, through an improved and national understanding of energy safety requirements.
- Collaborate with peak bodies to ensure full and regular public reporting occurs on energy safety incidents nationally. This could potentially be through a reporting portal where consolidated information is published and is accessible to relevant regulators, the regulated community, businesses and consumers.

Action 10: A national energy safety policy forum for cross-sector collaboration for new and novel safety risks

The Victorian Government will advocate to:

- Seek to ensure energy safety policy is scoped into the current national working groups under ECMC.
- Engage with other jurisdictions on options for a national approach to energy safety policy that will ensure policy collaboration across energy, transport and construction to work through new and novel safety risks (including national transport and maritime sector risks, product risks, technology risks, and reuse of assets in the emerging gas sector).
- To ensure Commonwealth Government initiatives, such as the Cheaper Home Batteries Program, includes stronger oversight, funding for compliance activities, and safeguards for consumers to support the rollout, based on requirements that exist under the Victorian Solar Homes Program.
- Ensure collaboration on sharing safety incidence data and using data to develop best practice guidance and national codes or guidelines, where appropriate.
- Support community engagement as changes in the energy sector arise, to communicate where consumers can access guidance on how to keep their homes safe and which regulators to contact for more information.

Pillar 3: Energy workforce licensing and skills

Victoria's energy transition, brings with it the arrival of new technologies – and new challenges – for industry and the workforce generally too. The Victorian Government has prioritised a review of Victoria's licensing classification regime for electrical workers, plumbers and gasfitters, along with further development of apprenticeships so that workers have the skills to engage with emerging technologies.

The continued expansion of the renewable energy sector is expected to put a strain on the labour market, with an increased demand for electricians, mechanical trades and engineers. The current workforce is being stretched to perform roles that might need further training, with additional skills needed for safety.

The actions in this Pillar seek to develop an expanded and enhanced workforce, by reviewing and reforming licensing classifications for electrical workers, plumbers and gasfitters. New and emerging technologies and their application in the provision of energy to householders and industry will require a reassessment of current licensing classifications make sure they stay up to date and fit-for-purpose.

Action 11: Ensuring safety in workforce training and skills development to encompass new and evolving technologies

- The Victorian Government will work with key stakeholders to ensure training and skills programs with industry include energy safety as a key priority. Training and skills programs may be delivered under Solar Victoria's Electrification Workforce Program, and the existing Continuing Professional Development program (run by Energy Safe Victoria). The Skills and TAFE and higher education sectors will continue to play a role in delivering training to meet Victoria's clean economy and workforce needs.

The Victorian Government will:

- Support worker training by including safety training as part of other specialised training programs and centres where possible.
- Consider developing advanced hydrogen first responder training, in partnership with AFAC, Australia's peak body for fire and emergency services, on behalf of the National Hydrogen and Low Carbon Fuels Working Group. This training will be publicly available on AFAC's website and easily accessed by Victoria's First Responders.
- Consider delivery of skills and/or redesigned units and qualifications in renewable energy to support the workforce, facilitated by partnerships between the Victorian Skills Authority, Office of TAFE Coordination and Delivery and the TAFE Network.
- Increase the TAFE Network's capacity to respond to offshore wind industry workforce needs by establishing an Offshore Wind Skills Lab. TAFE Gippsland is leading the implementation of the Skills Lab on behalf of the TAFE Network. The Skills Lab will develop key educational offerings and a roadmap to strengthen the capacity of the TAFE Network to contribute to building the offshore wind industry workforce. Funding has been provided as part of the \$3.45m package to establish three Clean Economy Skills Labs.
- Continue to implement the 10-year Clean Economy Workforce Development Strategy, with progress updates to be published in the annual Victorian Skills Plan.

Action 12: Victoria’s licensing classifications for electrical workers, plumbers and gasfitters

The Victorian Government will develop proposals in consultation with key stakeholders to:






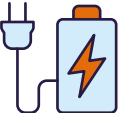
- Review licensing classifications for electrical and gas workers to ensure they are and continue to be relevant, considering needs for cross trades to align with national mutual recognition commitments. Workers should also receive proper training to handle new safety risks as they are identified. The review of licensing classifications will be underpinned by the process improvements and through the review of key definitions in energy safety legislation outlined in Pillar 2 (‘Dynamic regulation of the renewable energy transition’) to ensure licensing can evolve with the overall framework. This will include exploring licensing pathways for apprentices, and post-trade qualifications, to ensure consistency across legislation, supporting safe workforce development.
- Review different types of licenses to ensure workers handling high-risk tasks and emerging technologies (examples may include the wiring of modular homes) have the right qualifications for safety. This should cover for example how Registered Electrical Contractors certify imported components of for example lifts, switchboards and relocatable homes not built to Australian standards and whether the exemption conditions for persons carrying out electrical installation work are appropriate.
- Investigate options for trades working on electric vehicles (the intersection between electrical workers and mechanics). This may include options for a new licence to enable suitably qualified workers the opportunity to maintain passenger vehicles up to 2.5 tonnes, provided the vehicle is unplugged or safely de-energised by a licensed electrical worker.
- Consider any risks associated with changes to licensing classification and supervision requirements, since product certification and installer accreditation is currently undertaken by private industry bodies. Those requirements imposed by the Commonwealth under its STC scheme will end in 2030, and Solar Homes is due to conclude rebates and interest free loan offerings in 2027–28. These changes may reduce the effectiveness of industry self-regulation as they remove current standards and guidance provided to industry participants.
- The development of proposals for licensing classification will also take account of:
 - a. the commitment Australian governments have made to progress mutual recognition of occupations,
 - b. the March 2025 announcement by the Commonwealth Government that it will work with states, territories, businesses and unions to design a national licensing scheme for electrical trades people,
 - c. the Commonwealth Government’s Cheaper Home Batteries Program,
 - d. the Victorian Government’s CER Protections Framework (to avoid regulatory overlap).
- Review the relationship between LEIs and electricians to ensure there is no conflict of interest. Further work is needed to evaluate if Energy Safe Victoria’s audit program helps reduce the risk of conflict / bias between LEIs and electricians.
- Determine the role Energy Safe Victoria and other regulators – such as the Building and Plumbing Commission – can play as Victorians work more frequently with renewable hydrogen and other renewable gases.



Where to from here?

The Victorian Government will keep developing new policies and actions in each of the 3 Pillars to lead to a safe renewable energy transition. The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action will be the lead agency on most of these actions, through collaboration, where appropriate with industry and industry groups, unions, regulators, other government departments and agencies in Victoria and with other jurisdictions.

Some of the key milestones are shown below. These milestones will continue to evolve over time, and their exact release or outcome dates may vary from those indicated below.

Pillar of energy safety	Action
1. Ensuring Victorians remain safe	 1. Increase flexibility around standards
	 2. Improve product labelling and product recalls
	 3. Operation and maintenance of domestic PV and batteries
	 4. Support and educate consumers who choose to switch to electric to do so safely
	 5. E-scooters, e-bikes and similar devices and other electrical equipment that may pose safety risks
	 6. Consumer education and consistent electrical safety standards for batteries

* Dependent on future Government priorities and subject to decision by the Government of the day

2026 →

Flexibility around application of standards
– Research, review and consultation in early 2026. Prepare for legislation amendment.

Enable Energy Safe Victoria to issue compliance codes – Establish working group, followed by consultation.

DEECA to consider legislative and/or regulatory amendments to strengthen Energy Safe Victoria’s ability to make declarations regarding products.

Product recalls – Victorian Government to work with the Commonwealth Government and Standards Australia to advocate for e-scooters and other devices to be included in the EESS

Establish a cross-agency working group, audit current compliance framework, and evaluate enforcement options. Develop Regulatory Impact Statement

DEECA, Energy Safe Victoria and other Victorian Government departments assess the need to update fact sheets regarding permanent gas disconnection.

Collate data and establish monitoring to understand gas connections and disconnection practices

DEECA to consider legislative and/or regulatory amendments to strengthen Energy Safe Victoria’s ability to make declarations regarding products.

Partner with other agencies

2027 and beyond* →

Commence legislation amendment process (if this is the response).

Commence legislation amendment process if needed.

Work to harmonise regulations and powers across states and territories.

Legislative or regulatory changes as required.

Implementation of monitoring processes with gas distributors.

Work with partner agencies to educate consumers on the risks and safe practices associated with Li-ion batteries.

Pillar of energy safety

Action

2. Dynamic regulation of the renewable energy transition



7. Reform of the statutory energy safety framework



8. Assess Energy Safe Victoria’s resourcing model to give effect to regulatory responsibilities



9. Build a robust evidence base for future energy safety measures



10. A national energy safety policy forum

3. Energy workforce licensing and skills



11. Ensuring safety in workforce training and development



12. Victoria’s licensing classifications for electrical workers, plumbers and gasfitters

* Dependent on future Government priorities and subject to decision by the Government of the day

2026 →

DEECA will commission an independent analysis of the regulatory framework in consultation with industry and unions. There will be public consultation on key changes to aspects of the energy safety legislation, including definitions, thresholds, the general duties and safety case regimes. The review will also assess the possibility of consolidating the energy safety acts into a single act.

The Victorian Government will develop an activity-based costing model regarding Energy Safe Victoria's regulatory responsibilities. Develop a policy proposal if required.

DEECA and Energy Safe Victoria to work with other regulators and emergency services to consider the need for a centralised incident database.

Scope energy safety policy into the current national working groups under ECMC.

The Victorian Government will work with key stakeholders to make sure that training and skills programs include energy safety as a key priority.

Review the different types of licenses to make sure workers have the right qualifications for safety. Options paper and consultation in 2026.

2027 and beyond* →

Commence legislation amendment process if needed.

Commence legislation amendment process if needed.

On-going collaboration as required if a new system needs to be established.

New projects commencing in January 2026 are funded through to January 2028.

Commence regulatory and/or legislative proposals if needed.

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