

performing its supply obligations to its new customers; and

obtaining payment for electricity or gas supplied to those new customers.

Parts 2 and 3 of the bill amend the Electricity Industry Act 2000 and Gas Industry Act 2001 to extend the sunseting of the energy consumer safety net provisions from 31 December 2007 to 31 December 2008. These amendments preserve the energy consumer safety net provisions for 12 months pending the outcome of the Australian Energy Market Commission's review of competition in the Victorian gas and electricity markets.

To provide energy retailers with greater certainty as to the distribution charges that are to be recovered through their retail tariffs, clauses 12 and 31 of the bill reduce the publication requirement for retail tariffs from 60 to 30 days. This will mean that the retail tariffs applying from January will be those gazetted the previous December based on distribution tariffs submitted by the energy distributors to the Essential Services Commission in mid-November.

The bill also includes amendments with respect to the Victorian Energy Networks Corporation (VENCorp). VENCorp was established in 1997 as a not-for-profit state-owned corporation responsible for planning and operating Victoria's electricity transmission system and operating the principal gas transmission system. In accordance with part 8 of the Gas Industry Act 2001, a review of VENCorp was undertaken in 2006–07. The review found that the Victorian energy industry and the community generally value VENCorp's key current functions and that VENCorp is considered to undertake these functions effectively and efficiently.

15:00 The bill makes a series of amendments consequent on the review of VENCorp. In particular, it will recognise VENCorp's not-for-profit status and repeal the requirement for it to present an access arrangement under the national gas pipelines access regime. The bill will also repeal VENCorp's electricity demand management function which the review found was largely unexercised and potentially in conflict with VENCorp's transmission planning function.

As well, the bill repeals redundant provisions in the Gas Industry Act 2001 in relation to the Port Campbell underground gas storage facility and makes other, minor amendments in the nature of statute law revision to that act.

The bill also amends the Gas and Fuel Corporation (Heatane Gas) Act 1993 to clarify that an order made in 1994 under that act transferred ownership of the

Heatane gas pipeline extending from Dandenong to Hastings, Long Island Point and Crib Point to Elgas Reticulation Pty Ltd.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr MULDER (Polwarth).

Debate adjourned until Wednesday, 3 October.

BUILDING AMENDMENT BILL

Statement of compatibility

Mr BATCHELOR (Minister for Community Development) tabled following statement in accordance with Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act:

In accordance with section 28 of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, I make this statement of compatibility with respect to the Building Amendment Bill 2007.

In my opinion, the Building Amendment Bill 2007, as introduced to the Legislative Assembly, is compatible with the human rights protected by the charter. I base my opinion on the reasons outlined in this statement.

Overview of bill

The bill will amend the Building Act 1993 to:

clarify and simplify the purposes and objectives of that act;

clarify, simplify and otherwise amend the functions of the Building Commission and the Plumbing Industry Commission under that act; and

make other minor drafting changes to improve the operation of that act.

Human rights issues

The bill does not raise any human rights issues.

Conclusion

I consider that the bill is compatible with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities because it does not raise any human rights issues.

PETER BATCHELOR, MP
Minister for Community Development

Second reading

Mr BATCHELOR (Minister for Community Development) — I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.