



Gas Access Arrangement Review (GAAR) Stakeholder Roundtable

Terms of Reference

November 2025

Seeking members for AusNet's Gas Stakeholder Roundtable

Help shape the future of the gas network for Victorian households and businesses.

Our gas network delivers energy today to nearly 850,000 homes, businesses, hospitals, schools and other facilities in western Melbourne, Geelong and parts of western Victoria. We are one of three gas distribution businesses in Victoria. Our network covers over 12,500 km, in an area of 60,000 square kilometres. The network includes:

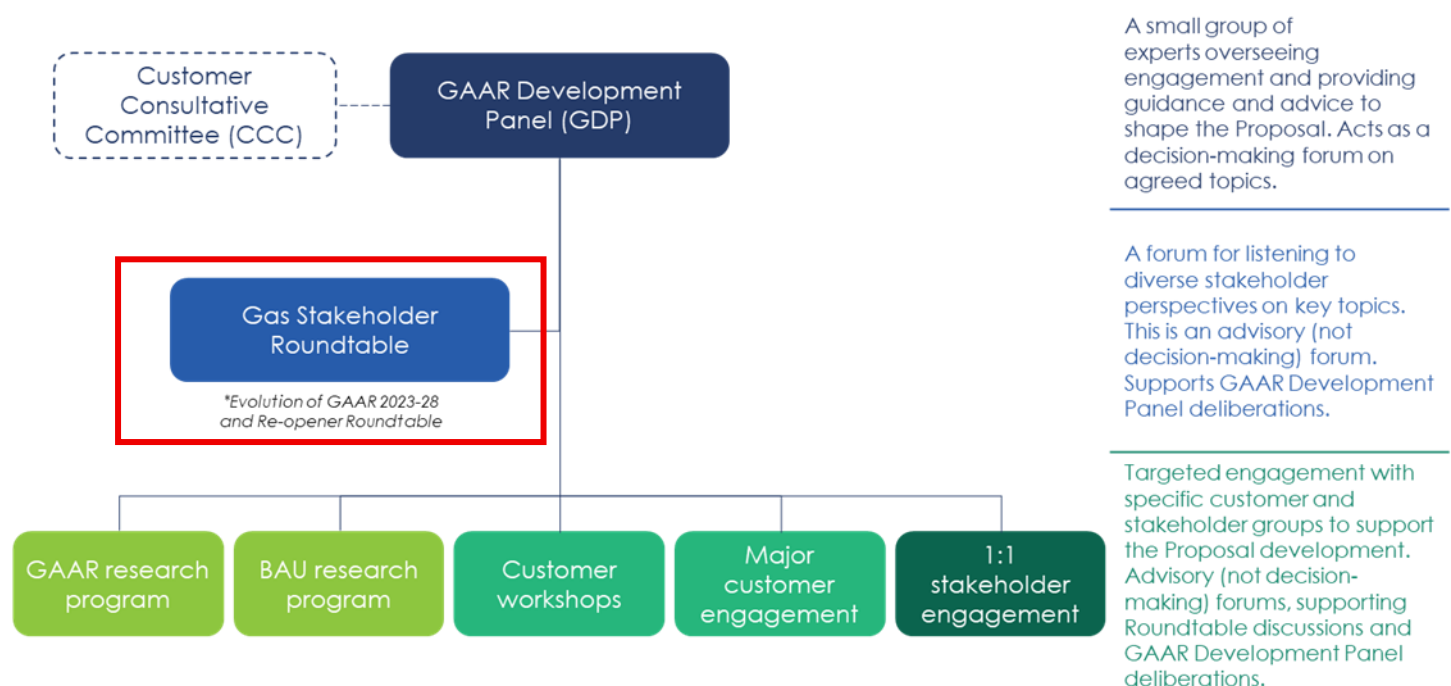
- Mains
- Mainline valves
- Pressure regulating facilities (including city gates, field and district regulators)
- Service pipes, and
- Meters and ancillary equipment.

The Gas Access Arrangement Review (GAAR) is a formal process undertaken every five years with the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) to develop the expenditure plans for our gas network. This review covers the regulatory period from 1 July 2028 to 30 June 2033.

As part of this process, we must submit our five-year plan, known as our Revenue Proposal, to the AER by 1 June 2027. The AER will then assess our Proposal and set the revenue that influence the prices customers pay for gas, the services we provide, and the level of customer experience we deliver.

Customer and stakeholder engagement is central to the GAAR process. We work closely with our customers, stakeholders, and the AER to shape plans for our network.

Our engagement model has been designed to enable a broad range of customer representatives and stakeholders to participate and have their say in shaping our Proposal, with clearly defined pathways for inputs to be reconciled to best reflect customer preferences.



About the Gas Stakeholder Roundtable

The Gas Stakeholder Roundtable (the Roundtable) is an evolution of the Roundtable we engaged with on our 2023-28 Proposal and Variation Proposal. This group last met in April 2025.

Those interested in joining the Roundtable are invited to express their interest.

Purpose

The Roundtable is a forum for hearing diverse stakeholder perspectives on key topics. It provides an opportunity for the many stakeholders interested in gas matters to engage on key topics of interest to them. The Roundtable also provides continuity from the previous two GAAR engagement processes and helps keep AusNet accountable.

Feedback from the Roundtable will be presented back to the GAAR Development Panel for further consideration and discussion. The Roundtable is an advisory group, not a decision-making group, but its insights and advice will be heavily relied upon by the GDP.

Membership

We invite expressions of interest to join the Roundtable from all interested stakeholders who wish to participate. Members can opt in/out to conversations that interest them most. We are seeking expressions of interest from groups including (but not only):

- Consumer advocates and representatives
- Representatives from other parts of the gas supply chain
- Retailers
- Sustainability groups
- Local Government Authorities
- Government departments and organisations
- Developers and property industry representatives
- Industry representatives, and
- *Other interested parties.*

There is set cap on member numbers and it is expected that members will only attend meetings on topics of interest to them. All meetings are optional.

The role of a Gas Stakeholder Roundtable member

The role of a Gas Stakeholder Roundtable member is to provide preferences and insights on various gas planning topics. Input will be used by AusNet and the GAAR Development Panel to reconcile diverse views to support the development of the Proposal.

To achieve this the Roundtable will:

- Discuss key topics determined by the GDP and AusNet that are of interest to a broad mix of stakeholders
- Meaningfully contribute the thoughts and preferences of the organisations/industries they represent
- Act as an advisory – not decision-making – group to provide advice and preferences for the GDP to consider
- Be encouraged to make submissions on our Draft Proposal and Proposal, and
- Engage on topics of most interest / relevance to them.

Meeting frequency

Approximately 6 times throughout the process for roughly half a day, with additional updates/briefings as needed. We expect the Roundtable to meet for the first time in March or April 2026.

Governance

Roundtable meetings will be chaired either by a senior AusNet representative or, as needed, by the GAAR Development Panel Chair.

AusNet's Engagement Team will serve as the Roundtable Secretariat, responsible for coordinating meetings, managing agenda items, and ensuring that actions arising from each meeting are appropriately followed up. The Secretariat will also act as the primary point of contact for any requests or queries from external Roundtable members.

Participation and remuneration

Roundtable members are expected to take an active role in meetings by attending and meaningfully contributing. This requires being informed on topics being presented, and ready to participate collaboratively. Members are expected to voice the needs and preferences of the customers, communities and other stakeholder groups they represent.

AusNet reserves the right to review membership of Roundtable members throughout the process if members are not attending meetings and/or meaningfully contributing.

AusNet does not intend to provide remuneration to Roundtable attendees but may, at its discretion, offer remuneration to stakeholders who otherwise couldn't participate and who it would be in customers' net interests to be involved. Please indicate in your expression of interest if you require remuneration.

Agenda items

AusNet and the GAAR Development Panel will work collaboratively to design the agenda and topics for discussion for each Roundtable meeting. Topics will be chosen based on their relevance to our Proposal, the group's interest in them and the level of influence customers and stakeholders have in shaping those specific aspects of our Proposal.

Application and selection process

Please submit your expression of interest using the online form on our [Community Hub page here](#).

Expressions of interest for the Roundtable will remain open through the GAAR 2028-33 engagement process and new members may be appointed at AusNet's discretion at any time.

You may be contacted by AusNet for further information prior to a decision being made on your appointment to the Roundtable. All applicants who apply by Friday 19 December will hear from AusNet on the outcome of their nomination by the end of January 2026.

Code of conduct

All members of the Gas Stakeholder Roundtable are expected to adhere to the following Code of Conduct.

- (1) Purpose and scope
The Roundtable provides a forum for open and constructive engagement between AusNet and its stakeholders. This Code of Conduct outlines expectations for behavior to promote effective and respectful engagement.
- (2) Respect and professionalism
 - (a) Members are expected to engage respectfully, courteously, and professionally at all times.
 - (b) Discriminatory or offensive behavior, including harassment, bullying, or intolerance, is not acceptable.
 - (c) Members should promote an environment where diverse viewpoints are valued and considered thoughtfully.
- (3) Confidentiality
 - (a) Members must respect that confidential material will often be shared with the Roundtable and within Roundtable meetings.
 - (b) Information shared with the Roundtable by AusNet or other members must remain confidential and should not be disclosed to any external party without proper authorisation. A cautious and prudent approach should be adopted in handling such information.
 - (c) Prior to releasing information to the public, other organisations (including government) or media, including via the media or on social media, members are required to contact AusNet to ensure they are fully aware of any possible issues that may be raised.
 - (d) Members are required to refer, as soon as possible, any media enquiries about the Roundtable or a matter it has discussed to the AusNet media line on +61 (0)3 9483 0989.
- (4) Conflict of interest
 - (a) Members must disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest to the Secretariat.

- (b) Members should avoid using their position for personal benefit.
 - (c) Members must promptly inform AusNet if they have or intend to refer any matters, personal or otherwise, to the Energy and Water Ombudsman Victoria. This notification will allow AusNet to ensure its compliance with relevant regulations and obligations regarding engagement with the Ombudsman and its customers, and any restrictions on interactions during such processes.
- (5) Contribution to discussions
- (a) Members are encouraged to actively participate, share ideas, and contribute constructively.
 - (b) Discussions should stay relevant and focused on the Roundtable's objectives.
 - (c) Members should listen attentively and give due consideration to diverse perspectives when forming their own positions.
- (6) Accountability and integrity
- (a) Members should act with integrity and in good faith, contributing to discussions and decisions that reflect the best interests of the broader customer base.
 - (b) Contributions should be based on facts and objective analysis, where possible.
- (7) Meetings and attendance
- (a) Attendance at all meetings is optional. If a member cannot attend a meeting, they should give prior warning to the Secretariat and are encouraged to share any relevant contributions ahead of the meeting.
- (8) Remuneration and fees
- (a) Remuneration and reimbursement arrangements will be discussed with applicants requesting remuneration. The decision to provide remuneration and/or reimbursement will be at AusNet's absolute discretion.
 - (b) AusNet reserves the right to review and amend the reimbursement arrangements periodically to ensure they remain appropriate and aligned with organisational priorities, industry standards, and budgetary considerations. Any changes to the fee structure will be communicated to impacted members with reasonable notice, allowing for feedback or discussion as needed.
- (9) Review and amendments
- (a) This Code of Conduct may be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains effective and relevant.
 - (b) Members are invited to provide feedback to improve the Roundtable's processes and the overall effectiveness of collaboration.
- (10) Acknowledgement
- By participating in the Roundtable, members commit to upholding the principles in this Code of Conduct, contributing to collaborative work in a respectful and constructive manner.

AusNet

AusNet

Level 31
2 Southbank Boulevard
Southbank VIC 3006

T 1300 360 795

Locked Bag 14051
Melbourne City Mail Centre
Melbourne VIC 8001

Follow us on

 @AusNet.Energy

 @AusNet

ausnet.com.au

