

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Solar Homes



**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Tuesday, 10 September 2019

NEW DIRECTION FOR ENERGY SAFE VICTORIA

The search is on for a new executive to lead Energy Safe Victoria (ESV), as the Andrews Labor Government continues its ambitious reforms to strengthen the energy safety regulator.

Minister for Energy Lily D'Ambrosio said recruitment would begin immediately to ensure a smooth transition before outgoing Director Paul Fearon's retirement in November, particularly in the lead-up to the busy summer bushfire season.

The new appointment will be charged with continuing Energy Safe Victoria's important work and overseeing the Government's reforms to boost its capacity and powers.

They will also act as the Chair Delegate to oversee the establishment of the three-person ESV Commission recommended last year by the extensive Grimes Review and endorsed by the Government.

ESV has been given more resources and a mandate to better engage with the community and hold duty holders to account, which is vitally important as the industry transforms.

Auditing inspections for electrical infrastructure have tripled by increasing inspector numbers, which has also doubled ESV's capacity to undertake gas pipeline inspections.

This position plays a vital role in preparing Victoria for the continuing effects of climate change, new and emerging technologies and a transforming energy industry.

Mr Fearon has made a significant contribution to energy safety regulation and reform during his tenure, which will reach 10 years in November.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy Lily D'Ambrosio

"I thank Paul Fearon for the significant contribution he's made to the energy sector, and for his efforts in leading the important reforms identified by the Grimes review."

"Energy Safe Victoria plays a vital role in monitoring the energy sector and holding those who do the wrong thing to account."

"We're looking for a new leader to continue this important work building a stronger energy regulator to keep Victorians safe."