



# Gas retail licence

Solstice Energy Retail Pty Ltd (ACN 110 370 726)

As varied on 14 February 2024



# Gas Retail Licence

This Licence is issued pursuant to section 26 of the *Gas Industry Act 2001* (Vic).

## Date

This Licence was last varied on 14 February 2024.

## Licensee

This Licence is issued to:

**Solstice Energy Retail Pty Ltd (ACN 110 370 726)** (the Licensee)

5 Kiln Court

St Leonards TAS 7250

**THE COMMON SEAL of the  
ESSENTIAL SERVICES COMMISSION**  
was affixed pursuant to the authority  
of the Commission on 16 February 2024

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kate Symons", is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Kate Symons

**CHAIRPERSON**

# Part A - Interpretation

## 1 Definitions

1.1 Unless the contrary intention appears, a term has the meaning shown opposite it:

<b>Act</b>	the <i>Gas Industry Act 2000</i> (Vic)
<b>Administrator</b>	means an administrator appointed by the Commission under section 41 of the Act in respect of the Licensee's Retail Business
<b>AEMO</b>	the Australian Energy Market Operator Limited (ACN 072 010 327)
<b>Business Day</b>	a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday in Victoria
<b>Code of Practice</b>	means a Code of Practice made under Part 6 of the ESC Act or relevant legislation
<b>Commission</b>	the Essential Services Commission established under the ESC Act
<b>Distribution Area</b>	the area in which the Licensee may retail gas, as defined in Schedule 2.
<b>Energy Retail Code of Practice</b>	means the code of practice of that name made under Part 6 of the ESC Act
<b>ESC Act</b>	the <i>Essential Services Commission Act 2001</i> (Vic)
<b>Licensee</b>	Solstice Energy Retail Pty Ltd (ACN 110 370 726)
<b>Minister</b>	the person who is, from time to time, the Minister administering the Act
<b>National Gas Law</b>	The National Gas (Victoria) Law which applies in Victoria under the <i>National Gas (Victoria) Act 2008</i> (Vic)
<b>Objectives</b>	the objectives of the Commission specified in section 18 of the Act and section 8 of the ESC Act
<b>Retail Business</b>	means the business that a Retailer carries on under its Retail Licence or exemption granted under the Act
<b>Retail Licence</b>	a licence, granted under the Act, authorising the holder thereof to sell gas

<b>Retailer</b>	a person who holds or is exempt from holding a Retail Licence
<b>RMPs</b>	the Australian Energy Market Operator Retail Market Procedures (Victoria)
<b>Standard Gas Licence Conditions for Gas Retail</b>	the document of that name as published by the commission on 12 July 2022 (as varied from time to time in accordance with law)

1.2. In this Licence, unless the context otherwise requires:

- i. headings and footnotes are each for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of this Licence;
- ii. words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa;
- iii. words importing a gender include any gender;
- iv. an expression importing a natural person includes any company, partnership, trust, joint venture, association, corporation or other body corporate and any governmental agency;
- v. a reference to a condition, clause, or part is to a condition, clause, or part of this Licence;
- vi. a reference to any statute including the Act and regulation, proclamation, Order in Council, ordinance, code, guideline, procedure or by-law includes all statutes, regulations, proclamations, Orders in Council, ordinances, codes, guidelines, procedures or by-laws varying, consolidating, re-enacting, extending or replacing them and a reference to a statute includes all regulations, proclamations, Orders in Council, ordinances, by-laws and determinations issued under that statute;
- vii. a reference to a document or a provision of a document includes an amendment or supplement to, or replacement or novation of, that document or that provision of that document;
- viii. a reference to a person includes that person's executors, administrators, successors, substitutes (including, without limitation, persons taking by novation) and permitted assigns;
- ix. other parts of speech and grammatical forms of a word or phrase defined in this Licence have a corresponding meaning;
- x. a period of time:
  1. which dates from a given day or the day of an act or event is to be calculated exclusive of that day; or
  2. which commences on a given day or the day of an act or event is to be calculated inclusive of that day;
- xi. an event which is required under this Licence to occur on or by a stipulated day which is not a Business Day may occur on or by the next Business Day.

## 2 Notices

2.1 A notice under this Licence is only effective if it is in writing, and dealt with as follows:

- i. if given by the Licensee to the Commission – addressed to the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission at the physical or email address specified below or as otherwise notified by the Commission:

Essential Services Commission  
Level 8, 570 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
[licences@esc.vic.gov.au](mailto:licences@esc.vic.gov.au)

- ii. if given by the Commission to the Licensee – given by the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission and addressed (and marked for attention of) the Chief Executive Officer of the Licensee at the physical or email address specified below or as otherwise notified by the Licensee:

Solstice Energy Retail Pty Ltd  
5 Kiln Court  
St Leonards TAS 7250  
info@solsticeenergy.com.au

A notice is to be:

- iii. signed by or on behalf of the person giving the notice and delivered by hand; or
- iv. signed by or on behalf of the person giving the notice and sent by pre-paid post; or
- v. transmitted electronically by or on behalf of the person giving the notice by electronic mail.

2.2 A notice is deemed to be effected:

- i. if delivered by hand – upon delivery to the relevant address;
- ii. if sent by post, in accordance with section 160(1) of the Evidence Act 2008 (Vic);
- iii. if transmitted electronically – in accordance with the Electronic Transactions (Victoria) Act 2000 (Vic).

2.3 A notice received after 5.00pm, or on a day that is not a Business Day, is deemed to be effected on the next Business Day.

## Part B – Licence

### 3 Grant of the Licence

- 3.1 This Licence was first granted on 19 December 2016 and has been varied on the dates set out in Schedule 1 of the Licence.
- 3.2 Subject to clauses 3.3 and 9, in exercise of its powers under section 26 of the Act, the Commission grants the Licensee a licence to sell gas by retail on the terms and conditions set out in this Licence.

3.3 This Licence is subject to any prohibition set out in any Order in Council issued and in force under the Act.

## **4 Variation**

4.1 The Commission may vary this Licence in accordance with section 38 of the Act.

## **5 Transfer**

5.1 This Licence may be transferred in accordance with section 40 of the Act.

## **6 Revocation**

6.1 The Commission may revoke this Licence:

- i. at any time at the request of, or with the consent of, the Licensee; or
- ii. in accordance with the Act.

6.2 Where the Commission proposes to revoke this Licence, the Commission will issue a notice to the Licensee, specifying:

- i. the basis upon which the Commission proposes to revoke the Licence; and
- ii. the date upon which the revocation is proposed to take effect, such date to be:
  - 1. in the case of a breach of clause 8 of the Standard Gas Licence Conditions for Gas Retail, or where in the Commission's opinion it is appropriate that the Licence be revoked in a shorter time frame having regard to its Objectives and the events or circumstances that gave rise to the notice being issued, no less than 5 Business Days after the date upon which the notice is issued; and
  - 2. in all other cases, no less than 20 Business Days after the date upon which the notice is issued;
- iii. that the Licensee has the opportunity to make representations on the matter and the time and date and manner in which those representations must be made.

6.3 The Commission must consider any submissions received by the licensee prior to making a decision to revoke the licence.

6.4 Where the Commission decides to revoke this Licence, the Commission will issue a notice to the Licensee specifying:

- i. the basis upon which the Commission is revoking the Licence; and
- ii. the date upon which the revocation takes effect, being no earlier than the date specified in the notice issued pursuant to clause 6.2;

and this Licence will be revoked on the date specified in the notice.

## Part C – Licence Conditions

### 7 Status of the requirements in this part

- 7.1 A failure by the Licensee to meet any of the requirements set out in this Part C is a breach of a civil penalty requirement for the purpose of the ESC Act.

### 8 Standard Gas Licence Conditions for Gas Retail

- 8.1 The Licensee must comply with the Standard Gas Licence Conditions for Gas Retail as may be varied from time to time in accordance with section 38 of the Act.

### 9 Special Licence Conditions

- 9.1 This Licence authorises the Licensee to sell gas within the Distribution Area.
- 9.2 This Licence does not permit the Licensee to sell gas outside of the Distribution Area.
- 9.3 In respect of the activities conducted under this Licence, the Licensee is exempt from the requirement to register with AEMO and to comply with the RMPs. The exemption does not apply if:
- a. any of the pipelines in Victoria used by Gas Networks Victoria Pty Ltd to provide gas distribution services become 'covered' under the National Gas Law; or
  - b. any of the pipelines used by Gas Networks Victoria Pty Ltd to provide gas distribution services become part of the Victorian 'declared distribution system' under the National Gas (Victoria) Act 2008 (Vic).
- 9.4 If the Licensee is not obliged to comply with the RMPs, the Licensee must comply with the Customer Transfer and Reconciliation Code (CTR Code). The CTR Code is subject to the approval of the Commission and may be amended by the Commission at its discretion.

**Note:** The conditions identified in Part C of this Licence are not an exhaustive list of a Licensee's obligations. A licensee is required to comply with additional obligations as set out in the Act and instruments made under that Act. In particular, obligations are placed on the Licensee in Codes of Practice, including the Energy Retail Code of Practice.

## Schedule 1 – Variations to the Licence

Date	Variation
22 June 2022	Varied (with effect from 12 September 2022) to reflect the decision published by the Commission on 12 July 2022 following completion of the energy retail licence review.
14 February 2024	Varied to reflect the companies change of name and change of address for notices. Tas Gas Retail Pty Ltd is now trading as Solstice Energy Retail Pty Ltd.

## Schedule 2 – Distribution Area

The distribution area in which the Licensee may retail gas consists of the following postcodes:

3264, 3352, 3463, 3515, 3523, 3549, 3579, 3585, 3638, 3888, 3909