

# **VEU – Induction Cooktops Consultation**

## **Equitable Access for Households in the Energy Transition**

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Master Electricians Australia (MEA) is the trade association representing electrical contractors recognised by industry, government and the community as the electrical industry’s leading business partner, knowledge source and advocate. You can visit our website at [www.masterelectricians.com.au](http://www.masterelectricians.com.au)

### MEA’s Support of induction Cooktops

MEA, as the representative voice of its members, supports the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) inclusion of the Induction Cooktops. We have been engaged in various State and Federal consultations on Consumer Energy Resources (CER). This involvement promotes sustainable energy solutions and facilitation of opportunities for its members within electrification. A list of our consultations can be found at <https://www.masterelectricians.com.au/advocacy>

MEA has developed a [roadblocks and solution](#) document outlining policies which we believe will assist in a swift, efficient and equitable roll-out of CER across Australia. Victoria (VIC) Government champion the change within its State to enhance consumer confidence in CER investment by promoting certainty in electrification.

It therefore stands that MEA commends the VIC Government with its inclusion of induction cooktops into the VEU program.

### Role of Licensed Electrical Contractors

We acknowledge the consultation paper has stated consumers are to “engage local trades to complete the upgrade ... The regulations of these trade is overseen by Energy Safe Victoria and the Victorian Building Authority”<sup>1</sup>. We urge regulations, once complete, to explicitly recognise the exclusive role licensed electrical workers have in the installation and electrical maintenance of the induction cooktops. This is a highly specialised role that has significant public safety risks if performed incorrectly.

### Minimum Co-Payment

Throughout our submissions, MEA advocates for three financial policies to be implemented, designed to alleviate the financial pressures associated with the capital costs of installation:

- Government rebates
- Low interest Government electrification loans
- Financial institution electrification loans.

While we acknowledge that the \$200 co-payment may be reasonable for a significant portion of the population when purchasing an induction cooktop, it remains financially unattainable for many, as upgrades to circuits and switchboards to accommodate the transition from gas to electricity will be necessary for significant proportion of installations, and these costs could run into thousands of dollars.

Achieving an equitable and effective transition to electrification with has high a take-up as possible, requires that all households and businesses have the ability to directly access and benefit from CER. Therefore, it is imperative for the Vic Government to enact financial policies, such as those outlined above, to provide assistance to low-income households in accessing induction cooktops financially.

Additionally, a combination of financial and non-financial policies must be put in place to support tenants in accessing induction cooktops, given that the decision and cost of installation typically rest with the landlord.

### Conclusion

MEA fully supports the inclusion of induction cooktops in the VEU program. However, we urge VIC Government to take the following actions:

- Explicitly recognise the role of licensed electrical contractors throughout the installation and electrical maintenance of induction cooktops.
- Allow for smaller permanently connected cooktops (2 elements) in smaller dwellings such as apartments and townhouses.

<sup>1</sup> Energy, Environment and Climate Action “VEU – Induction cooktops consultation paper” Victorian Government (April 2024), at 9.



- Implement financial and non-financial policies to ensure an equitable, swift and efficient roll-out of induction cooktops.

MEA look forward to continue working with the Victorian Government and its Departments in the implementation of its Energy Transition policies.

