

GAS NEW ZEALAND

Representing New Zealand's Gas Industry

smart. clean. efficient.



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Welcome to Gas New Zealand, a joint publication of the LPG Association of NZ and the Gas Association of NZ.

Gas New Zealand will be published regularly as part of the industry's efforts to encourage the direct use of natural gas and LPG into households and small business.

Using natural gas and LPG as a direct energy source offers numerous cost, environmental and energy efficiency benefits, and Gas New Zealand hopes to educate consumers and policy makers about the many advantages of making wider use of this strategic energy asset.

LPG A HIT IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

The export of LPG to the South Pacific in 20'ISO Tanktainers for cooking is proving to be a great success, according to Reef Bulk Fuels Technical Advisor, Campbell Hope.

He says the South Pacific Islands have welcomed the introduction of LPG as an accessible alternative to electricity.

"In the South Pacific Islands there is a need for a cheap, efficient, environmentally friendly fuel for cooking, as electricity is extremely expensive in the islands.

"We have seen a niche market, as general gas providers in the South Pacific supply only in bulk. We deal with smaller users and smaller cylinders."

Mr Hope says using smaller cylinders has meant Reef Bulk Fuels needs to train locals on filling procedures, which they do using the LPG Association's training systems.

The Association's training package, which is approved by the Environmental Protection Authority, includes trainee workbooks and a training DVD.

Mr Hope says it is the ideal system to up-skill the prospective cylinder fillers in the islands.

"Being able to utilise a NZ approved training system in the South Pacific has its unspoken advantages.

"One advantage is, of course, ensuring that New Zealand's best practices are passed on to our Pacific Island customers."

Mr Hope says the appreciation of LPG as a safe alternative to electricity plays a part in its popularity in the South Pacific.

"Safety is paramount. LPG is easily accepted by all of our customers in the islands – the product itself is seen as being far safer than electricity."

Mr Hope says the success of LPG can be measured by Reef Bulk Fuels' steady increase in sales.

"Customers love LPG – our sales are increasing markedly. Business is booming!"

AUTOMOTIVE LPG PREFERRED BY TAXI DRIVERS

A spate of conversions in recent times shows taxi drivers are still interested in automotive LPG.

AutoLPG Solutions Director, Ruory Fairbrother, says his active promotion of automotive LPG has led to an increase in the uptake of LPG conversions.

"AutoLPG Solutions have recently converted vehicles such as Camry, Aurion, Fairlane and Statesman for taxi operators," says Mr Fairbrother.

"By physically approaching taxi drivers across New Zealand, AutoLPG has secured a number of conversions based on price differentiation between petrol and LPG and assurances that LPG technology has kept pace with vehicle technology.

"The more I speak to people, the more favourable responses become."

Mr Fairbrother says he targets taxi drivers as they can recover costs from the conversion to LPG.

"LPG conversion is expensive. It's a big difference in price, but it takes approximately 55-65,000km for those fuel savings to recover the cost of the conversion.

"It is definitely a niche market for high mileage vehicles. It's well worth it for taxi drivers."

Mr Fairbrother says promotion works, and if the LPG industry wants to increase the use of LPG, they need to support their product.

"LPG is a positive story. It's a locally sourced fuel, environmentally it's a less harmful product, and in terms of cost it stacks up well in comparison to petrol.

"Once I began making the effort to promote LPG, a groundswell of support developed.

"I'd love to see the LPG industry really get behind its product, and promote the many benefits of LPG."

AutoLPG Solutions source and install auto LPG equipment, and was established in September of 2011.

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LPG ASSOCIATION CHALLENGES DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL'S DISTRICT PLAN LPG REQUIREMENTS

Dunedin City Council's Plan Change 13 (Hazardous Substances) to the Dunedin City Plan will duplicate regulations already in place regarding storing of LPG, and increase costs for consumers.

That's the message from LPG Association Executive Director, Peter Gilbert, who has recently made a submission to the Dunedin City Council to rethink their proposal.

"There is significant duplication between District Plan LPG requirements formulated under the Resource Management Act and the requirements for location certificates under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act," Mr Gilbert says.

"HSNO regulations cover all the potential effects of storing LPG. They are more stringent than any other jurisdiction – the trigger levels proposed by the Dunedin City Council are not justified in any way."

Mr Gilbert says the Dunedin City Council plan imposes further LPG trigger limits and does not consider industrial manufacturers.

"Instead of bringing its District Plan up to speed with LPG trigger limits, recognising the effect of HSNO regulations, it has imposed a limit of 180kg, above which Resource Consent is required. This is in addition to the Location Certificate dictated under HSNO.

"In simple terms, if a person stores more than 180kg of LPG they must apply for Resource Consent. It doesn't matter if that person is a home-owner or a large industrial manufacturer – 180kg is the limit."

Mr Gilbert says the Dunedin City Council's plan will have a negative impact on the gas industry.

"The inconsistencies and duplication will turn potential users away from LPG for space heating, water heating and cooking, and towards other energy sources.

"When potential consumers discover that Resource Consent under the Resource Management Act and a Location Test Certificate under HSNO are required, with their associated time delays and substantial costs, other options become more desirable."

Mr Gilbert says there is a strong case for Councils not to include LPG in their Resource Consent system.

"There is no reason for Councils to include LPG in their Resource Consent system, as adverse effects of LPG are covered by HSNO regulations.

"Gas New Zealand understands that Councils want to retain some level of control and involvement, which is understandable. However, given the system they impose, regulations should be based on sensible and reasonable trigger limits for LPG.

"That is not the case for Dunedin's Plan Change 13 in its current form."

THE BEAUTY OF GAS COMPETITIONS A GREAT SUCCESS!

Gas NZ has just run competitions in two of the country's biggest newspapers and the results have been well worth the effort, according to Gas NZ's Ray Ferner.

The competitions, in the New Zealand Herald and the DomPost, were designed to draw attention to The Beauty of Gas website.

The site attracts on average about 5000 viewers a month. But in the month of May, the two competitions saw that figure rise to almost 25,000 viewers. The number of hits till mid June is already over 5000.

"The competitions, especially the one held in the NZ Herald, have been an outstanding success and we are delighted with the huge jump in the number of viewers to our website. We will definitely look at doing something similar at the start of next winter," says Mr Ferner.

To enter the competitions, readers had to answer three questions that could only be found on the website.

The winner in Auckland was Emma Henderson of Glenfield. She won a prize package worth more than \$10,000. It included a Rinnai Infinity VT 26 continuous water flow heater and a Real Fires Minimal 800 Fire complete with a 3.6 metre flue kit.

In Wellington Greg Barton from Lowry Bay won the DomPost prize package worth more than \$8000. It included a Rheem 24/7 continuous gas flow water heater and a Kent fireplace from Aber.

"I would like to thank very much the providers of the prizes. Not only did the competitions give them significant advertising in the two newspapers, they drew a lot of attention to the beauty of gas website which means many more people have been made aware of the advantages of gas," says Mr Ferner.

GAS EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS GROUP SUGGESTS CHANGES TO E3

The Gas Equipment Suppliers Group (GES) of Gas New Zealand has recently made two submissions to EECA's Equipment Energy Efficiency Programme, known as E3.

The GES made submissions relating to gas appliance labelling and standards for space heaters, decorative appliances and water heaters.

GES spokesperson John Swarbrick says the GES made submissions as the gas supply industry will be greatly affected by the decisions made by EECA.

"It's very important that EECA get this right. E3 could affect both the design and marketing of gas heaters, which would significantly impact the gas supply industry."

Mr Swarbrick says the submission regarding gas space heaters urges EECA to take into consideration the small size of the NZ market.

"Only 4% of the gas supply in New Zealand is used for direct domestic purposes. Our submission pointed out that an extra compliance cost, such as MEPS, may lead to a gas appliance being displaced by an electrical one.

"This could mean the replacement electricity would need to be generated by gas-fired generation, resulting in a decrease in overall energy efficiency."

Mr Swarbrick says the E3 Energy Efficiency Labelling discussion paper needs development.

"The testing requirements of AS 4553 are basically sound but the combination of this information to form a meaningful label needs further work.

"With any labelling scheme it is vital that it is maintained current and enforced. Lack of check testing to ensure compliance puts the credibility of any scheme at risk and disadvantages those participants who play by the rules."

The GES comprises most of the major gas appliance suppliers to the New Zealand natural gas and LPG market, as well as representatives from the appliance retail sector and appliance testing laboratories.

To read these submissions in full, please click on each submission below.

[Final Submission for Labelling](#)

[Final Submission for Space and Decorative](#)