



The Beauty of Gas

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Welcome to Gasline, which is produced by Gas New Zealand.

Gasline is published regularly as part of the industry's efforts to encourage the direct use of natural gas and LPG into households and small businesses.

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

Introducing the LPGA's new board member: Neil Beeslaar

Promoting LPG and identifying opportunities for supply chain collaboration are high on the agenda for the LPGA's newest board member, Neil Beeslaar.

Neil is the general Manager of SecoGas, and his role includes oversight of the LPG equipment business as well as the certified test laboratories and cylinder refurbishment plants.

"A large part of my role involves managing a business in a highly regulated and compliance driven industry and insuring that we meet all the regulatory and health and safety requirements imposed on our business," he says.

Neil says his interest in joining the board started with the technical committee and being able to tap into the vast knowledge that lies within the LPGA.

"I believe that the experience I have gained by working within the LPG industry as well as managing an IANZ accredited test laboratory will enable me to add value to my role on the board," he says.

"My role will be to provide a downstream or non-energy retailer perspective, and identify ways in which the entire supply chain can benefit from collaboration."

Neil says he also wants to focus on finding new and innovative ways to promote the use of LPG as a safe and cost effective fuel.

"The LPG industry is performing well and has a bright future - our challenge is not to become complacent and not to promote LPG as good value for money," he says.

"LPG as a safe and viable fuel source has come under fire from consumer interest parties and it is the role of the LPGA to challenge these findings and to effectively promote LPG.

"I believe the LPGA to be an important link between its members, the LPG industry and regulators and have always provided its members with guidance regarding standards and regulations.

"The greatest challenge facing the LPGA is finding a balance between representing the industry at a ministerial and regulatory body level as well as trying to promote LPG."



New LPGA board member, Neil Beeslaar.

New Resource Management Act to create savings for ratepayers and gas industry

The LPG industry and consumers will benefit if the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, introduced to Parliament late last year, is passed.

The Resource Management Act overhaul is designed to reduce bureaucracy, and increase national consistency, more responsive planning, simplified consenting and better alignment with other laws, says Environment Minister Dr Nick Smith.

Importantly, the Bill removes the explicit functions for councils to regulate hazardous substances under the RMA, because they are already covered by the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (HSNO) 1996.

LPGA executive director Peter Gilbert says the Association has been working with the Ministry for the Environment for four years to eliminate this duplication.

"We're certainly very pleased the Bill has been introduced to the house, and we believe the support is there to have it passed," Peter says.

"Removing hazardous substances regulations reduces compliance costs for ratepayers and the industry, without impacting safety, because HSNO takes care of that."

The recent case in which Christchurch City Council were instructed by the District Plan Independent Hearings Panel to remove hazardous substance panels from their district plan proves such regulations are unnecessary.

"Dunedin City Council are currently working through their district plan, and the LPG Association have made a submission," Peter says.

"We have urged them to take note of Christchurch's outcome, as well as the intent of the RMA Amendment, and we hope other councils will do the same."

The Act also requires councils to follow national planning templates that will improve the consistency and reduce the complexity of plans.

A planning template will set out the structure of resource management plans, and can include consistent content on matters that require national direction or national consistency.

The structure and format of plans will be the same across the country, reducing confusion and making plans easier and cheaper to use and review.

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WLPGA Oceania Regional Summit

The next WLPGA will hold a Regional Summit entitled 'LPG: Exceptional Energy for Australia, New Zealand & the Pacific Islands'.

The Oceania Summit, to be held on 18th May 2016 at the Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort, Gold Coast, will highlight the challenges and opportunities that exist in the Oceania region.

It will also showcase how new ideas, innovations and developments make LPG exceptionally suitable to address the energy concerns of this vast and diverse region.

The WLPGA is co-hosting this event with Elgas and Origin Energy and is supported by Gas Energy Australia and the LPG Association of New Zealand.

WLPGA is offering limited opportunities for sponsorships as well as space for exhibition during this event.

To find out about the full range of high visibility opportunities please contact Michael Kelly at WLPGA:

mkelly@wlpga.org



Free training for health and safety reps

Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) can now register for free transition training to guide them through the changes in the new Health and Safety at Work Act.

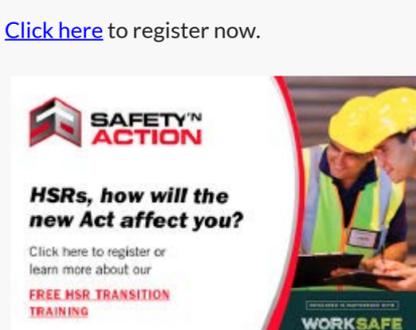
HSRs trained under the current Act will not be able to exercise the new powers and functions introduced under the new Act - but completing Transition Training allows them to do so.

Under the new Act, HSRs will be able to issue Provision Improvement Notices and order unsafe work to cease.

Safety 'n Action have developed a one-off, free course in partnership with WorkSafe New Zealand which is structured to bridge the gap between the current and new legislation.

It is open to all existing HSRs trained to at least level one under the current Health and Safety at Work Act.

[Click here](#) to register now.



EGCC Commissioner to leave

Electricity and Gas Complaints Commissioner Judi Jones is to leave the role in March this year.

Jones joined the Scheme at its inception in 2001 and has been its only Commissioner.

EGCC Chair Hon Heather Roy says Judi Jones has made a longstanding and significant contribution to the Scheme.

She said consumers are now well served by a maturing disputes resolution Scheme for those who wish to make a complaint about their electricity or gas services.

"Judi's commitment to setting up the EGCC, shepherding it through the process of becoming the approved Scheme and bedding it in as a respected and trusted dispute resolution Scheme has been outstanding.

"Judi's legacy is a Scheme that is in excellent shape, trusted and respected by both consumers and industry. After 15 years at the helm her experience and promotion of accessible dispute resolution will be missed and we wish her well with her future endeavours," Heather Roy said.

The EGCC Scheme, which commenced in 2001 as a voluntary Scheme for the electricity sector, has grown to cover both electricity and gas, with a jurisdictional limit of \$50,000, up from \$10,000 in 2001.

It is now the compulsory Scheme for the electricity and gas sectors, and has a membership of over 230.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Commissioner," Ms Jones said.

"I am pleased to be able to leave the Scheme in good heart, well respected by the industry and with strong and capable staff."

Judi has been appointed as the Australian Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman and will take up this position in March 2016.



The EGCC Commissioner, Judi Jones, will leave her role next month.

We are always looking for stories from both the natural gas and LPG worlds, as well as the wider gas community.

If you have any story ideas for Gasline please email Daniel