

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.

### Kiwi panellist shares views at World LPG forum

The New Zealand LPG industry was represented on a global stage at the recent World LPG Forum in Singapore.

Albert de Geest, chief executive of Liquigas, was a member of a panel titled 'Seizing the Moment', which focused on major changes in oil and gas prices during the last twelve months as new product enters the international markets.

Mr de Geest says the discussion concentrated on the impact of United States shale gas on world LPG markets.

"There has been a huge decline in world prices, and the consensus on the panel was that prices will remain low for a few years," he says.

"Prices are volatile at the moment, and while many people want to see a disconnection between oil and LPG, there is no evidence to suggest the relationship is breaking, and nor is it likely to."

Mr de Geest says other key dialogues at the forum were technology and emerging uses for LPG, and the World LPG Association's (WLPGA) 'Cooking for Life' initiative.

"New developments like the use of LPG in trucks, trains, ships and power tools is growing overseas – but it would need to get pretty big before we took notice and jumped on board in New Zealand."

The WLPGA's Cooking for Life initiative aims to facilitate the transition of one billion people from cooking with traditional fuels to cleaner-burning LPG by 2030.

The campaign convenes governments, public health officials, the energy industry and global NGOs to expand access to LPG and bring this modern alternative to the people who need it most.

"This is a relatively new campaign so the forum was a good chance for the WLPGA to give it some airtime," he says.

New Zealand's LPG storage system was also of interest to delegates from other countries, Mr de Geest says.

"We're the only country in which storage is shared amongst wholesalers," he says.

"Many people could see the benefits of shared storage, and representatives of one or two smaller countries with developing markets really thought it was interesting and could see it working in their own markets."

Mr de Geest says he enjoyed mixing with delegates from other countries and learning more about the state of their industries, including differences and similarities with New Zealand.

"We sit pretty well with the Western world – our uses are very similar to most, and we face similar challenges with Autogas, which really struggles without government support," he says.

"Because there are candidates from all over the world, the forum was a great way to get a broader perspective of the LPG industry, and learn about different uses and challenges LPG presents."



Liquigas chief executive, Albert de Geest.

### New gas measurement standard published

A new standard will provide performance-based requirements for gas measurement that are useful, measurable, and repeatable as a minimum standard for the gas sector.

The aim of NZS 5259:2015 Gas measurement is to improve the accuracy of gas measurement by setting achievable, balanced performance criteria. It benefits both the gas sector and the consumer by providing a means of compliance for gas measurement systems to meet performance criteria.

NZS 5259:2015 is a revision of NZS 5259:2004 Gas measurement which is cited in the Gas (Safety and Measurement) Regulations 2010, and provides performance criteria for all gas measurement systems offering a means of compliance under the Gas Act 1992.

When revising the standard, the committee considered current best practice as laid out in relevant national and international standards; new and developing technologies; compliance costs; and generic development such as electrical metering.

The performance requirements have been reviewed and updated to ensure that all of the existing regulatory requirements for accuracy and suitability have been incorporated.

These have been extended as necessary to apply not only to the meter and conversion device but also other components of the gas measurement system. Worker competency requirements are also included.

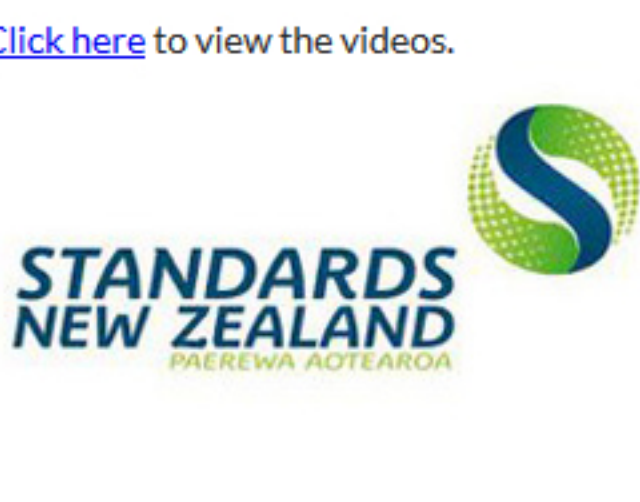
NZS 5259:2015 applies to gas measurement systems for fuel gases as defined in the Gas Act and the conversion of measured volume or mass to energy.

Worksafe New Zealand – Energy Safety; Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board; and Standards New Zealand have developed a series of online presentations to assist gasfitters and other practitioners with understanding New Zealand's gas regulations, including amendments made to the regulations that have come into effect since 2013.

The first two videos in 'The Gas Regulations and You' series were developed to provide gasfitters with key information they need to know to ensure the work they carry out is safe, properly certified, and complies with the regulations. They also aim to assist gasfitters in understanding key changes to the gas regulations and what these changes mean in practice.

The third video is an overview of 2014 amendments to the gas regulations.

[Click here](#) to view the videos.



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](#)

### In this issue

- [Kiwi panellist shares views at World LPG forum](#)
- [New member for GANZ - Gas Association New Zealand](#)
- [Christchurch City Council told to follow Crown's judgement on substance controls](#)
- [New gas measurement standard published](#)
- [Innovating in a new environment](#)

### New member for GANZ

Downer New Zealand (Downer) is a leading provider of engineering and infrastructure management services, providing solutions to customers operating in a variety of market sectors including Facilities Management, Telecommunications, Road & Rail infrastructure, Open Space Management, Power & Gas and Water.

Downer has gas based maintenance, operations and construction capability based in the Taranaki, Lower Hutt and Wellington regions.

GANZ encourages contracting companies like Downer to become members, as it provides a positive opportunity to increase the profile and involvement of our stakeholders across the industry.

"We see joining GANZ as an opportunity to contribute to the wider industry. Increased communication and sharing of information will provide us with a better understanding of what the industry is focusing on and how that could be beneficial to our customers and key stakeholders", says Grant Bradley, Gas Contract Manager at Downer.

"Our interactions thus far have been generally focused around training, which is very important to Downer – we do a significant amount of work in relation to training new people, ensuring our people are skilled and qualified for the work we deliver.

Mr Bradley says Downer will aim to work with other members of GANZ with a view to supporting continual improvement across the gas industry and focusing on solutions to some of the key challenges.

"For example, at present there is a shortage of qualified gas industry trainers across the country, we need to work together to overcome this challenge or it will impact the NZ Gas industry considerably in the future. Downer will also look to be engaged early with changes in regulation and standards. It's really about working together with all stakeholders to ensure the New Zealand Gas Industry is positioned very well for future growth."



Downer Gas Contract Manager, Grant Bradley.

### Christchurch City Council told to follow Crown's judgement on substance controls

An interim decision has been made on the inclusion of hazardous substance controls in the new Christchurch District Plan at an independent hearing last month.

The Independent Hearings Panel heard the evidence for and against, and its interim ruling is in the Crown's favour.

The Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (on behalf of the Crown) argued that the controls simply aren't needed in the plan, as HSNO regulations already cover this ground.

The panel preferred the Crown's approach, and stated that the Council's chapter concerning these controls is difficult to follow, and would be difficult to apply.

The panel said HSNO is sufficient to cover off the proposed inclusions in the District Plan, and that the Resource Management Act would respond to anything not covered off.

"We factually accept the Crown's expert evidence and reject that of the council," said the panel in their record of interim ruling and decision.

"The planners taking this matter forward should do so on the basis of the acceptance of the Crown's expert evidence."

LPGA executive director Peter Gilbert attended the mediation on this issue.

"The LPGA has been working with the Ministry for the Environment for years, and this outcome is a fruition of that work," he says.

Peter urges local authorities around the country to take note of the Crown's recommendation and the outcome of this hearing when they come to do their plans. The Christchurch City Council will now rewrite this section of the plan, based on the Crown's evidence and recommendations.

### Innovating in a new environment

The oil and gas sector needs more collaboration, data analysis and cultural change to address the innovation challenges, recent survey results indicate.

Lloyds Register Energy has released the 2015 Oil and Gas Technology Radar, a survey of oil and gas professionals about their outlook for the sector, which presents a compelling case for increased technological innovation.

The report provides data-driven findings on the role of innovation in the current and future upstream oil and gas industry.

The results are derived from interviews with 16 senior industry leaders and a global survey of more than 450 oil and gas professionals.

The key findings are:

- Most industry execs believe the oil price will stay around \$60-\$70 in 2016.
- 76% of oil and gas execs say oil price instability has slowed down technology development – but innovation remains vital.
- Efficiency is the top driver of innovation. (In 2014, it was improving safety.)
- 67% say the challenges of deployment hold back innovation.
- Collaboration is a key driver and innovation, and 87% are open to working with third parties.
- 61% say data collection and analysis is critical to performance – but many benefits have yet to be realised.
- Technologies from other industries are crucial to the future of oil and gas.

Lloyd's Register Energy director John Wishart said to innovate properly and achieve business goals companies must address a number of common challenges, including collaborating more openly, using data more effectively and changing traditional mind-sets.

"Encouragingly, our findings show that overall the industry understands the need for innovation and has begun reaching out to other sectors to gain technological insight," Mr Wishart says.

[Click here](#) to read the full report.

