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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.

Gearing up for the 2015 Gas Industry Forum

Registrations will soon be open for this year's Gas Industry Forum, to be held at The Novotel Lakeside Rotorua, 4 - 6 November.

LPGA executive director Peter Gilbert says though the full programme is not yet finalised, the forum is shaping up to be a fantastic event.

"We have a wide range of speakers covering topics from world LPG pricing and the outlook for the NZ economy, to updates from WorkSafe and EECA," Peter says.

"There's something for everyone in industry at this year's forum."

WorkSafe NZ will be holding a free workshop on Wednesday November 4 at 1.30pm, which Peter says will cover what the major hazard facility regulations mean for the LPG industry.

"This workshop is open to anyone, not just conference delegates - so it really is added value to the industry in general, over and above conference attendance," he says.

Confirmed speakers include Steve Bielby, Gas Industry Company CE; Mike Underhill, EECA CE; Brett Murray, WorkSafe NZ GM High Hazard Unit; John Kidd, Woodward Partners Head of Research; John Johnson, Geogas Trading Regional Manager; Stuart Dickson, Powerco GM Gas; Nick Tuffley, ASB Chief Economist; and Steve Dimakis, GSL Promotus Digital Promotions.

There will also be a range of technical presentations for the Friday morning breakout session, which will be confirmed as soon as possible, and as always the trade display will feature. Peter expects to build on last year's attendance, and is hoping to attract upwards of 120 delegates this year.

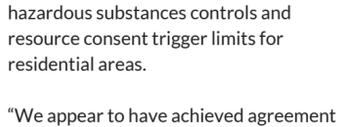
Attendance charges have been kept to the usual low level. Delegates who are employed by organisations which are members of either the LPG or Gas Associations, or who are individual members of the NZIGE pay just \$510 + GST, and non-members pay \$610 + GST.

For any organisations or individuals not yet members of their respective industry bodies, it is not too late to join up and reap the benefit of the lower membership attendance rate. Accommodation is available at the Novotel and the Ibis Hotel next door. [Click here](#) for a copy of the accommodation form which includes both options.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for those who wish to showcase their organisation and take a leading role in this gas industry event.

Click to view the [sponsorship options](#), and the [layout of the Trade Display area](#).

For more information, or to secure your package, please click here or contact Peter Gilbert: 04 914 1765, or peter@pga.org.nz.



Unitary plan submission a success

The LPGA has reached agreement with Auckland City Council on a number of Unitary Plan regulatory issues concerning gas cylinder swap storage capacity, hazardous substances controls and resource consent trigger limits for residential areas.

"We appear to have achieved agreement on allowing cylinder swap storage on service stations with bulk LPG storage, without needing extra resource consent, as the plan previously required," says LPGA executive director, Peter Gilbert.

As part of its submission on the Council's Plan, the Association also opposed a control which required the owners of sites holding hazardous substances to get a letter from a registered engineer saying the site is designed and operated in such a way that it would prevent any substance release.

"They effectively wanted someone to put in writing that the site and substances would never cause a problem," Peter says.

"Really, no one would write such a letter - one could never unequivocally say that nothing will go wrong. The council have accepted that, and they will either amend the wording, or remove the requirement."

However, the LPGA is not satisfied with the council's 100kg resource consent trigger limit for residential areas, considering the normal amount of LPG stored by the consumer is 90kg of LPG.

"If they have a spare cylinder for the barbecue, for example, then they've triggered 100kg and would need to pay for a location certificate under the HSNO regulations, and resource consent from the council," Peter says.

"That's very expensive for the consumer, for no real safety gain."

The LPGA is continuing to push for at least a 200kg limit, to cater also for larger houses which may have up to 180kg - plus spare cylinders for other usage - on the property.

The Association submitted evidence to the Council's formal plan hearing committee in mid-June.

The hearing process is due to be finished in April 2016, and the panel's recommendation should be established by July 2016, with council's response and conclusion by the end of 2016.

"Although this has a massive timescale, it's certainly understandable given the unitary plan covers all areas of Auckland planning control," Peter says.

"We look forward to learning the outcomes of the hearing and recommendation processes."



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](#)



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Australian gas industry players have lots to learn from Kiwis

The New Zealand gas industry is ahead of Australia's in many aspects, though a continuing relationship with their industry players can only be beneficial, says PowerCo Maintenance and Minor Works Manager, Lloyd Key.

Lloyd joined members from the GANZ technical advisory group in visiting various gas industry players in Australia to discuss safety, construction practices and asset management processes and systems.

The trip, held in June, was organised by members of GANZ and Australia's Energy Network Association.

The group met with staff at Electrix, AusNet and APA, and Lloyd says the replacement of cast iron gas pipes, currently underway in both countries, was a big topic of discussion across the board.

"While we're pretty much finished replacing cast iron pipes with polyethylene, Australia's still got a long way to go - their target completion date is 2021," he says.

"Because we're so much smaller, there's less to do, but it also means we're more dynamic and flexible in our work plans."

Lloyd says that after talking with Electrix staff it was clear that the New Zealand gas industry's policies and procedures around training are far more cohesive and strict than Australia's. "Our industry don't allow anyone to work networks without the right competencies - we really endorse and enforce training and refreshers, and that's nationally supported," he says. "Australia has nothing like that, and their regulations are different between states."

The meeting with staff from APA Group, Australia's largest natural gas infrastructure business, brought about insights into their mapping system which shows the distribution networks across the country.

"In New Zealand, we promote 'dial before you dig' to third party contractors - so they know they can give the network a call and we can tell them if there are any pipes they could hit." In Australia, if a service pipe is under 40mm in diameter, it's not mapped - that would include pipes from the mains to a house, which means it's up to a contractor to see if there's a gas meter at nearby properties.

"That's hard on the contractors - if they cause damage, it's their liability, but they're not properly alerted to where assets might be."

Overall, Lloyd says both parties gained valuable knowledge from the experience.

"There can only be more benefit from continuing the relationships we've fostered," Lloyd says.

"This was the first time we'd done something like this, and it's really opened the door to asking more questions."



An Electrix foreman describes the copper to polyethylene connection method to the technical advisory group.

Standards restructure on the horizon

A new independent statutory board to approve New Zealand Standards and membership of Standards development committees will be established with the passing of the new Standards and Accreditation Bill.

The Bill, which is awaiting its third reading in parliament, stemmed from a 2012 review of current regime which found the Standards Council was not financially sustainable in the medium to long term.

The review also found a need to improve the current arrangements for delivering Standards better to meet the needs of business, consumers and regulators, and to increase their contribution to economic growth, international trade, innovation and health and safety.

The new board, will also be responsible for providing advice to the Minister relating to standards, says Carmen Mak, MBIE's Acting Manager Trade and Regulatory Cooperation, Labour, Science and Enterprise Group.

Though this will replace the current structure of the Standards Council, standards will continue to be developed by technical expert committee members, Ms Mak says.

"The committees will feature a balanced representation of interested stakeholders, including industry experts, academics, consumer and worker representatives, and regulators.

"These changes will strengthen the development and delivery of New Zealand Standards to meet the needs of industry, regulators and consumers into the foreseeable future."

The Bill will establish an independent statutory officer, which will sit within MBIE, responsible for developing New Zealand Standards, and for New Zealand's international membership and participation in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

The new arrangements for Standards will start within six months of the Bill becoming law.

Until the transition occurs, the Standards Council and Standards New Zealand will continue to develop and maintain standards, as well provide access to standards through all its current channels.

"Standards New Zealand and MBIE are working closely together to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible," says Ms Mak.

Transport Fuels and Fleet Management Summit set to spin industry's wheels

The upcoming New Zealand Transport Fuels & Fleet Management Summit will provide exciting opportunities for industry players to learn about reducing costs, improving safety, and influential industry trends and developments.

The summit, to be held on 21-22 October at Auckland's Pullman Hotel, will bring together key stakeholders to discuss important issues and opportunities relevant to the transport fuels sector, policy makers, researchers and the owners of New Zealand's largest commercial fleets.

Session themes include:

- Fleet optimisation including case studies from fleet owners
- Oil price impacts on the transport sector
- Alternative transport fuel options
- Electric vehicle fleet conversion opportunities
- Fleet vehicle selection panel discussion
- Tyre, engine and fuel technology updates
- Updates to safety legislation and impacts on the sector
- Transport and vehicle technology helping to drive fleet productivity

The event features speakers from key sector organisations including HW Richardson, GoBus, EECA, BP, NZTA and Fonterra, and will cover the latest updates from around New Zealand as well as international perspectives.

The event also includes the 'Fuels and Fleet' exhibition, which provides a great opportunity to engage with the sector.

All the event details, registration options, sponsorship details, contact information and the full summit programme can be found on www.fuels.co.nz

