



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.

Vector gas pipelines relocated for new Kapiti highway

Up to four kilometres of high pressure gas pipelines have to be relocated to allow a new four lane expressway to be constructed from MacKays Crossing to Peka Peka, near Wellington.

The new Kapiti Coast road crosses Vector's high pressure 100 and 601 gas transmission pipelines in a number of locations requiring them to be moved.

The gas delivery station by the Waikanae River also has to be moved to a new site, due to its proximity to the proposed highway.



First lengths welded and prepared for hydro testing.

NZTA has asked Vector to relocate the pipeline and Delivery Point station before construction of the expressway.

All of the work is being paid for by NZTA and the project is being designed in accordance with AS 2885.1.

Vector are working in close liaison with NZTA's M2PP Alliance team during the works planning and construction process.

The first lengths of the new 200mm and 300mm pipelines have been welded and prepared for hydro testing before being inserted into a drilled hole.



Pipeline being lifted, ready to be inserted into a drill hole.

Long lengths of pipeline will be lifted by a number of excavators and inserted into a drill hole created by a horizontal directional drilling team.

This means long lengths of pipeline can be installed in one operation and without needing an excavated trench along the entire length.

The horizontal drilling rig is new for this project and has achieved high levels of accuracy over a long distance.



New horizontal drilling rig.

Vector says the pipes are typically installed at a depth of up to 16 metres, avoiding unnecessary damage to the environment.

It is planned for all works to be completed by February 2015, when the pipelines and station will be commissioned and in use.

ChCh recognises the beauty of gas

Christchurch businesses are certainly quick to appreciate the beauty of gas if latest sales trends are anything to go by.

The use of LPG in Christchurch has surpassed levels seen before the earthquake, says Contact Energy's man on the spot, Scott Kotoul.

"We used to sell around 2,000 tonnes a year into the CBD area before the earthquake," Mr Kotoul says.

"That dropped to around 400 tonnes immediately after the 'quakes, but now we're well over the pre-'quake sales figure.

"The resurgence of the hospitality trade in the re-build is a major contributor to this.

"Many hospitality operators are now seeing increasing patronage due to the benefits of gas fires and the ambience that they bring.

"We are also seeing major commercial and larger industrial sites opting for gas, and looking at switching over from the likes of diesel and light fuel oils."

Mr Kotoul sites examples such as Taylors dry cleaning and Feedco Canterbury as the latest to convert to LPG from these alternative fuels, with the likes of Horncastle Arena, Christchurch's main concert venue, also proposing to convert to LPG in the coming months.

There is also a big uptake of reticulated LPG at the Izone business park, in Rolleston, and the central city's Justice precinct, thought to be the biggest precinct of its kind in the southern hemisphere, will also have an element of LPG within.

"LPG certainly seems to have benefited from the re-build," Mr Kotoul said.

He puts its popularity down to consumers appreciating its cost-effectiveness and seeing price stability in the market.

"While the use of LPG may be increasing for sound commercial reasons, the spin-off is that Christchurch residents are also using higher quantities of a cleaner-burning energy source.

"That's a win-win for the region."

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New committee to benefit industry workers

The LPG Association has formed a special health and safety committee to align and improve safety procedures across the industry.



Committee chair and Ongas operations manager, Doug Falconer (above), says the committee has been established to gather, collate and share learnings and advice that will lead to better work practices.

"Our industry has always done this on an ad hoc, informal basis, but the HSE Committee will start to formalise this process so everyone can participate and reap the benefits."

Doug says the committee will share among industry members relevant information, experiences and statistics.

The end game is to identify and benchmark common trends and agree industry procedures and codes that will improve safety.

"For example, Ongas uses a very sophisticated electronic cylinder management system that prevents over-filling and improves safety for both our staff and for consumers.

"Information and procedures like this can be shared via the committee to benefit other parties.

"Another example is the fact that industry can share information on the cause of early pain and discomfort warnings that drivers report, to enable changes or modifications to equipment to prevent further injury.

"The committee will play a role in gathering and sharing data around these concerns so that industry can move more quickly to find practical, operational-type solutions."

The HSE Committee comprises representatives of Contact Energy, Elgas, Genesis Energy, Nova Energy and Ongas.

New Electrix exams a huge success

A new exam process for Electrix employees has proven to be a huge success, according to technical support manager, Carl Nilsson.

The new process was proposed by Electrix gas services divisional manager, Gerry Thompson and brought in last year.

The National Certificate in Gas Network Construction (Service Laying) (Level 3) is designed for people working in the network construction sector of the gas industry. It recognises the skills and knowledge required for certification as a trade operative in laying gas services in a gas distribution network.

"Originally these newly trained employees were given an open book exam which was quite easy to pass. We wanted to have more confidence in the ability of our employees to retain the knowledge they were being taught so we introduced the Capstone closed book exam which each candidate must pass, along with a follow up practical assessment before they are able to apply for the relevant COC card," says Mr Nilsson.

"Out of the first 11 guys sitting the new, more stringent exam, 10 of them failed. Recently those 11 were studying for the next level and all 11 passed the first time.

"This has given us a lot more confidence that the knowledge being taught to Electrix employees is actually being retained. It has proved valuable to Electrix and has shown that the candidates are taking this qualification seriously by studying and applying the knowledge and training to be able to pass this strict test.

"It also provides confidence to customers and the Electrix managers and supervisors that only those candidates that perform at the highest level are released to work on the network and provide leadership to the whole team."

"The trial is scheduled to run for approximately four months.

Powerco / Genesis Energy gas smart meter trial

Powerco and Genesis Energy are currently undertaking a gas smart meter trial for residential customers across the Wellington and Taranaki regions.

Ultrasonic gas smart meters (The Helios D152A) manufactured by EDM1 and designed for the residential market are been used in this trial. Powerco is also using this technology as part of its Smart Home Project.



First lengths welded and prepared for hydro testing.

The purpose of this trial is to assess the technical and operational performance of smart meters, along with the economic case for a future rollout. Ensuring that Powerco can connect gas smart meters to its gas network first time, and that communication can be established with all meters, will be critical factors in successfully future smart deployment.

The trial is scheduled to run for approximately four months.

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