

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.

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2015 Gas Industry Forum

It is now less than a month until this year's Gas Industry Forum, to be held at Novotel Lakeside Rotorua from 4-6 November. Register now and get the chance to learn about where gas / LPG fits into a low carbon future, where gas / LPG fits into a smart energy future, LPG pricing and shipping, what consumers really think about home energy, and a whole host of other topics.

[Click here to register online.](#)

PGDB building relationships with new stakeholder liaison group

The Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board (PGDB) will begin establishing stronger relationships with key industry participants with the formation of a stakeholder liaison group.

PGDB chief executive Martin Sawyers says the group is a great cross-section of the industry, and he looks forward to creating ongoing discussion around key issues and initiatives.

"This presents an opportunity for the board to discuss issues and receive feedback on proposed and implemented initiatives, and areas of concern to the board and the industry," Mr Sawyers says.

"Feedback is really important – we need to hear what they have to say, answer their questions, and become a regular point of contact so we continue working together.

"It's important to have a regular dialogue with those we regulate."

Mr Sawyers also says communication with the group will be a great way to streamline processes when implementing new initiatives and consultations.

"This is an opportunity for the board to be in contact with industry participants, so we can gain their input on new initiatives prior to sending things out for consultation," he says.

"This way, we should have more of an idea about what industry members want before we canvass the entire sector."

The group's first meeting will be on 12 October, and they plan to meet three to four times annually.

Mr Sawyers says initial topics for discussion include an update on the fees review, changes to the complaints process, the regulation and licensing review, what's proposed for CPD, supervision, and a strategy for dealing with unauthorised work.

The PGDB representatives in the group are Mr Sawyers, chair Peter Jackson, deputy chair Graham Hardie, and at times, key staff relevant to the particular issues being discussed.

They are joined by representatives by Master Plumbers, the PGD Federation, and tradesmen from each field. LPGA executive director Peter Gilbert will represent the gas industry.

Peter says he was pleased to be invited to be part of the group.

"It's important that someone from gas industry represented on the committee so we have open lines of communication on issues and topics that matter to us," he says.



PGDB chief executive, Martin Sawyers

International LPG manager training opportunity

LPG managers around the world have the opportunity to keep up to date with the latest thinking, technology and techniques to continue to grow their businesses at an upcoming international LPG manager training series.

This series of three one day training courses, coupled with a one day programme of site visits to one of the fastest growing LPG markets in Asia, will be held at Bali's Patra Jasa Resort and Villa from November 16 – 20.

The courses are organised by the LPG Academy and will be run by World LPG Association director David Tyler.

LPG subsidies are on the agenda for day one. This course examines the challenges for governments and LPG marketers in transitioning people away from traditional fuels. It will provide solutions to these challenges and also look at other ways to lower the entry barriers.

Day two is all about opportunities for LPG market development, and is suited to companies who are looking to extend their penetration of LPG into new applications, and to look at new markets to develop their business in a safe and sustainable manner. This course reviews why LPG is such an exceptional energy and looks at some of the existing and new applications for the product.

The final course focuses on developing a market for LPG as an engine fuel. It will review the advantages LPG has over other alternative engine fuels and examine the issues involved in promoting and using LPG in this application.

This will be followed on the final day with a site visit to Pertamina's facilities, including LPG storage and bulk loading facilities, bottling plants, and retail outlets.

Delegates will be able to choose a complete package of programmes or select those that interest them most.

[Click here](#) for more information and to download a registration form.

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](#)

Proposal for a new form of continuing professional development

The Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board is seeking feedback on an alternative model for continuing professional development (CPD).

The proposed new model was developed following feedback from the May consultation on registration and licensing requirements, which strongly supported changes to the current CPD scheme.

The new model proposes four to six hours of mandatory training per annum, delivered to all licensed practitioners.

Topics are to be developed in conjunction with a stakeholder reference group, consisting of staff, the industry and The Skills Organisation.

These may include disciplinary concerns/risks, regulatory/legislative changes, health and safety, technical developments and other identified training needs.

CPD will be delivered initially by a delivery arm of The Skills Organisation, to give the Board the greatest opportunity to influence quality and control cost.

This can be completed either in person or online, with training days being organised throughout the country.

During this consultation the Board is not only seeking views on the proposed model of CPD, but also on the fee that would be charged for the delivery of it, which is estimated to be approximately \$75 per practitioner.

If adopted, the Board would implement this new model with effect from 1 April 2016.

The deadline for submissions is 16 October, 2015. [Click here](#) to view all the relevant information, and to make a submission online.



No place for hazardous substance controls in Christchurch district plan

The inclusion of hazardous substance controls in the draft Christchurch district plan is a matter of contention, with many parties maintaining the controls are unjustified and irrelevant.

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

"Their argument is that the plan is simply duplicating HSNO regulations, so councils don't need to cover hazardous substances – there's nothing they can do that increases safety or adds value," says LPGA executive director, Peter Gilbert.

This month, an Independent Hearings Panel will hear the evidence for and against and make a decision based on this. "If the panel's decision is in the Crown's favour, there will be serious repercussions in local authorities around the country when they come to do their plans, as it does set a form of precedence," Peter says.

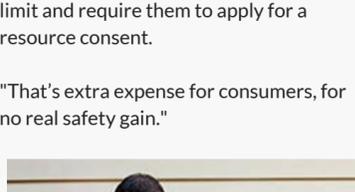
At recent proposed plan mediation meetings, Peter also made an argument against the proposed trigger limits which would require resource consent for residential customers with over 100kg of LPG.

He says this would adversely affect thousands of ratepayers.

"We estimate that there are about 25,000 residential twin pack customers in Christchurch," Peter says.

"If the proposed 100 kg trigger limit for a resource consent came in, and these customers add a few 9kg cylinders as well – for example, for a barbecue and patio heater – this would push them over the limit and require them to apply for a resource consent.

"That's extra expense for consumers, for no real safety gain."



Contaminants in LPG appliances

The issue of contaminants in LPG appliances has once again raised its head, and has affected a small number of consumers through failed components in continuous flow water heaters.

The LPGA executive were made aware of the issue in February, and paid for testing of any samples that could be provided from affected appliances.

To date, only six samples have been provided for testing.

LPGA executive director Peter Gilbert says the samples of contaminant were identified as phthalates, which are 'plasticisers' used in rubber components to provide flexibility, such as rubber pigtails.

"The Executive agreed that the first priority was to establish the contaminant that caused the failure of the appliance component, which we've now done on the six samples," he says.

The Association has further agreed to cover the cost of testing any future samples from failed appliance components, as well as replacing the pigtails and regulator on the next five affected sites.

"This is to enable a more exhaustive matching of phthalate residues."

Peter says the Association executive is determined to find the root cause of the current issues and to establish a solution for the future.

