

Parliament barbeque promotes LPG safety

Associate Energy and Resources Minister, Pansy Wong, recently took up the tongs and barbequed some bangers at Parliament to promote LPG appliance safety.

Ms Wong and the LPG Association's Executive Director, Peter Gilbert, hosted the event to draw attention to the association's cabinet heater safety campaign, which culminated in a five-barbeque giveaway.

"It was fantastic to see the Minister do her bit to deliver, in a fun way, what is actually a very serious safety message," Peter said.

"Unfortunately this winter there were one or two very tragic incidents with cabinet heaters. It is vital as an industry that we make sure the safety messages are both heard and understood by the public."

Every year the LPG Association runs public education campaigns to encourage the safe use of cabinet heaters.

Newlands man, Jared Clarke, also took a turn on the barbeque – which he won in the LPG Association's safety campaign.

The cabinet heater safety handout outlined these top tips for safe LPG cabinet heater use:



From left to right: Jared Clarke, Hon Pansy Wong - Associate Minister of Energy and Resources, Rob Forlong - Chief Executive Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) and Peter Gilbert - Executive Director LPG Association.

- Test your connections
- Always keep your heater at least one metre away from anything that could catch fire
- Keep a window open 2cm when you use your LPG heater
- Never use LPG heaters in bathrooms or bedrooms
- Use your nose – if you smell LPG turn the gas off immediately
- Have your heater checked out before winter

**Special thanks to Barlows Freight for delivering the barbeque for free.*

LPG Association 2009 Industry Forum

Time is running out to secure your place at the 2009 LPG Association Industry Forum!

The forum will focus on the opportunities and barriers to growing the LPG market. This year's programme has exciting, high-powered speakers who will look specifically at where LPG and gas fits in New Zealand's energy context.

Associate Minister of Energy and Resources, Hon Pansy Wong, will open this year's forum and will provide insight into the Government's view of energy for New Zealand and the role LPG and gas could play.



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The LPGA: Where to from here?



Editorial from LPGA President, Albert de Geest

The future of the LPG Association is on the table for discussion as our Executive works with the Board of the Gas Association to consider the pros and cons of merging the two associations.

This is an issue that's been around for some time – and it makes good sense for us to give this matter some serious thought.

Our two associations have much in common and share a number of the same workstreams, strategic issues and interests. We already work closely on a range of projects - technical,

regulatory and legislative, to ensure the best use of resources.

The make-up of our industries is very similar, with some member companies having a foot in both camps. So there is definitely merit in considering a merger.

Having said that, any merger is very much a one-way street. Dis-establishing our industry association and creating a new combined body is a major undertaking and it will be virtually impossible to unwind it if it doesn't work.

I think it's fair to say there are a number of people yet to be convinced that the proposed merger is the right approach. Certainly there is pressure to reduce costs but the level of savings achievable is not yet clear.

Our governance structures and the scope of our respective memberships are quite different, and the funding processes behind the two associations are entirely different. So it is likely there will be considerable debate and some angst over which models should be employed to govern and finance any new, combined body.

While we face a major common threat at present, it is also true that there

are many areas where natural gas and LPG are direct competitors and managing these potential conflicts within a common association will require some careful forethought.

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So, this is a decision that needs very careful consideration and we should take our time to ensure we have thoroughly explored all the issues, implications and ramifications.

It is a very important decision for the associations, made even more so by the fact that while there has never been a greater need for a powerful, credible and compelling industry voice, it has never been harder to amass the resources to facilitate and support that voice.

Direct use of gas messages promote consumer decision

It's pleasing to see that the generic Direct Use of Gas (DUOG) marketing messages are being used by industry to promote our product to the residential sector.

That's the view of LPGA Executive Director, Peter Gilbert, who said the LPG industry worked with the Gas Association of New Zealand (GANZ) to develop the generic marketing messages that would assist industry to promote DUOG in New Zealand and position it as a 'fuel of choice'.

"There were two outcomes we wanted to achieve with this plan. Firstly, we wanted to produce an advocacy plan to generate public support surrounding the greater use of gas.

"Secondly we wanted to create positive messages that industry members could use in their own promotion material as there was currently no common marketing theme or brand for DUOG in the residential sector."

The generic marketing messages focus on the following themes:

- Gas helps protect electricity supplies
- Gas is energy efficient
- Gas is environmentally friendly
- Gas is instantaneous

"This is a powerful brand positioning which allows us to market direct use of gas more proactively and position it as a fuel of choice," said Mr Gilbert.

"Hopefully the consumer will begin to see these messages used more widely as they provide the market with valuable information about the considerable benefits of choosing gas."

Key positioning messages for gas as a domestic energy source.

Gas Association of New Zealand (Inc)

LPGA Association of New Zealand

New codes of practice come on stream

Gasfitters and retailers will soon be able to access the new Multi-Cylinder Code of Practice, including a one-page installation check list, on the LPGA website.

The LPGA Technical Committee produced the Code which went to ERMA and the wider industry for consultation near the end of September, LPGA Executive Director, Peter Gilbert said. It will be out for consultation for about a month, he said.

It will probably take another month following that for the Code to be published.

"Then it will be freely available to download from our website. We want gasfitters to use the Code so that it makes the process for multi-installation more straight forward."

The Code covers where gasfitters should site multiple cylinders and all the requirements for installation of the cylinders, including the design and specifications for manifolds and pipework.

"It also includes, for example, a section on access for the delivery of cylinders, a very important consideration for the LPG supply industry."

Peter said the Code would bring together the industry standards and HSNO requirements in a way that's very clear and easy to understand. Currently the HSNO regulations for LPG cylinders are quite spread out and difficult to compile.

"A code of practice is much easier for people to pick up and read."

The LPGA has also produced an installation check-list which is currently under discussion with the gasfitting industry.

"It's one-page and even simpler than

the Code," Peter said.

"It gives gasfitters another tool to use to ensure the safe installation of multi-cylinders."

In-situ filling code by year's end

A new code of practice prepared by the Association's Technical Committee covering the filling of LPG cylinders "in-situ" should be in force by the end of the year.

Public comment on the Code of Practice for In-Situ Filling of LPG Cylinders closed on September 11. It was released by the Environmental Risk Management Authority for consultation.

LPGA Executive Director, Peter Gilbert, said the Code covers a practice that has been around a long time

and which is now becoming more common.

"Currently there's no provision in the HSNO Regulations for the filling of cylinders on-site.

"Although it was an approved practice under the old Dangerous Goods Regulations, it was not carried over into the new Regulations due to an oversight."

Once formally approved by ERMA it becomes an approved practice and a provides a defence in law.

Peter said it is extremely important to have this code approved so that in-situ filling is legally covered under the HSNO Regulations.

The Code is expected to be signed off within three or four months.

LPG Association 2009 Industry Forum continued from page 1

Billy Graham is scheduled as the after dinner speaker and he is set to impress. Billy is New Zealand's best-loved platform speaker and fitness advisor. He is bold, bouncy and brimming over with energy and enthusiasm.

A highly charged motivator who emphasises fitness, health, and focus. Billy's story reinforces that anyone can do anything if they set their sights high enough and get on with the job.

The two networking options at the forum include an adventure at Ohariu

Farm sponsored by Gameco, or a nine hole ambrose golf tournament at the Hutt Golf Club sponsored by Aber.

Ohariu Farm is located just 20 minutes north of Wellington and provides an outdoor haven full of adventurous activities. From axe throwing and archery, to clay bird shooting, Ohariu Farm is the perfect place to test your skills while you relax in the atmosphere of the great outdoors.

The Hutt Golf Club is nestled in the quiet, yet beautiful, suburb

of Boulcott in Lower Hutt. The championship layout of the course provides a true test to golfers of all levels.

The 2009 LPG Association Industry Forum will be held in Wellington at the James Cook Grand Chancellor Hotel on October 29 and 30.

For more information on the forum or to view the full programme and/or download a registration form visit www.lpga.org.nz, or contact Peter Gilbert on (04) 914 1765.

Concerns raised over cylinder filling compliance

An audit of LPG cylinder filling practises has raised concerns about the level of compliance with the industry's best practice guidelines.

ERMA New Zealand conducted the audit to check on how well the delegation given to the LPGA to manage the cylinder filling process was being carried out. Under the delegation, the LPGA has the right to appoint test certifiers, referred to as site trainers, who test and approve people who fill LPG cylinders. The audit was conducted in May 2009.

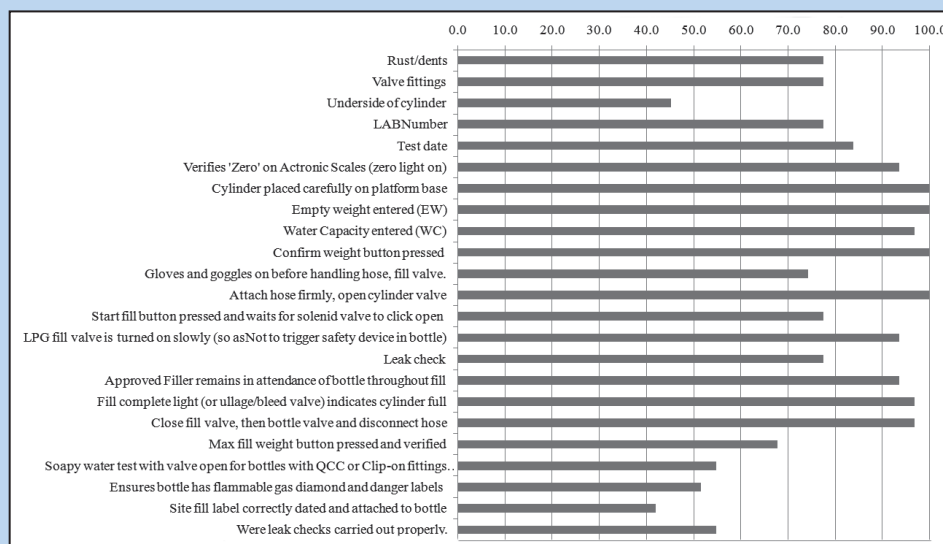
While the LPGA's processes were satisfactory, there is still a concern that the level of compliance at the filling stations may not always be at the desired level.

The site trainers and the cylinder fillers have the necessary infrastructure, materials and training processes they need. It's really a matter of using them properly and correctly and following the rules diligently at all times.

Two particular issues raised by the audit are the need for thorough on-site training and for sites to improve the quality of their record keeping so that regular refresher training is not overlooked.

It is the responsibility of the site trainer to do the training properly and ensure the approved fillers then carry out the filling process correctly.

The audit also noted that in a 23 month period there were six incidents reported of cylinders being over filled.



The LPGA will document the on line process proposed for the continuation and renewal of the approval of a site trainer which it is proposed to incorporate into the LPGA's delegation.

Additionally, a person shall not be appointed as a site trainer unless they can demonstrate they have been actively employed as an approved filler and held an approved filler test certificate for at least six months.

ERMA New Zealand will review incident data with the LPGA every six months so serious incidents and trends can be communicated to industry members and site trainers to ensure lessons learned are reflected in training provided.

LPGA Executive Director, Peter Gilbert, said as part of the recommendations from this audit, the Association must



meet the requirements of a minimum of 80 site audits, of which at least 40 must be mystery shopper audits.

"We're just finalising our plan for the coming year, but we are very conscious of the need to ensure site trainers and approved fillers meet all the requirements placed on them to ensure the safety of LPG consumers," Mr Gilbert said.

Cabinet heater review draws closer

Energy Safety is in the process of finalising terms of reference for a review of portable LPG cabinet heaters.

Energy Safety's Operations Manager, Mark Wogan, says "A number of government agencies are involved in the review, as it is expected it will examine a range of social, health-related, economic and environmental factors around the use of these appliances.

"We want to make sure we cover all relevant issues and that the process is robust," Mr Wogan said.

The review was sparked in part by a recommendation made by a coroner after two tragic incidents involving cabinet heaters.

However, Mr Wogan says there has also been public and media interest about the appliances and their relative merits and impacts.

"There are a lot of cabinet heaters being used in New Zealand, there are the occasional incidents and there has been ongoing public comment about these appliances, so a review is considered a sensible course of action.

"It will give all stakeholders the opportunity to assess the costs and benefits of these appliances."

LPGA Association, Executive Director, Peter Gilbert, appreciates why the review is necessary and says industry is keen to contribute where appropriate to the process.

"LPG cabinet heaters are used worldwide and have a role to play as a small space heating option. You can't deny the popularity of cabinet heaters but we do have to ensure they are used appropriately.

"Hopefully this review will provide further useful information that will inform decisions around that issue."