



April 2015

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.

LPGA has agreed its objectives for 2015

Influencing regulation, particularly the proposed WorkSafe HSNO Regulations, the Major Hazard Facility Regulations and health and safety regulations, are high on the priority list in the LPGA's latest key deliverables.

The three main areas of the deliverables, recently agreed by the LPGA board, are compliance and regulation, managing and building stakeholder relationships, and managing and building membership value.



LPGA President, Tony Smith

LPGA president Tony Smith says that proactivity in these areas results in widespread positive outcomes for both association members and industry.

"We want to anticipate any issues there might be, and work constructively to build robust, practical and industry supported responses and outcomes," he says.

"As an association it's important that we're approachable – we want both members and outsiders to be engaged with us, and vice versa.

"We also want to ensure that members can easily get any assistance or relevant information they may need."

Tony says that prioritising regulation and health and safety as a strong focus is critical for industry.

"Current regulation is cumbersome and complex – we want to make sure we can influence key stakeholders with constructive input to make sure it becomes simpler, more practical, and achieves safe, efficient goals," he says.

The deliverables highlight the importance of key parties, such as regulators, politicians, local authorities and government agencies, being aware of the universality of LPG and natural gas as energy sources.

"We want them to see the immediacy, efficiency and cleanliness of gas as a starting point for a greener environment," says Tony.

"When we're involved with these parties, and continue to be in contact with them about emerging issues affecting industry operations, we can be influential and really benefit the gas industry," he says.

In Memoriam: RIP Ross McLennan

The LPGA wish to advise that Ross McLennan, a member of the Association for more than 20 years, passed away in January.



Ross McLennan

Ross owned and operated the Auto Gas Centre in Auckland, and has been involved in the gas industry for more than 30 years.

Territory manager at Elgas, Ian Macefield, knew Ross well through business and describes Ross as a pioneer in the industry.

"When the industry moved into LPG automotive conversions, Ross was the one getting the conversions of petrol to LPG up and running," says Ian.

"He always had extensive technical knowledge. It's fair to say that Ross' passing is a loss to the industry – no one else had that much knowledge."

Ian says Ross always made sure he was upskilling, and familiar with new technology. Companies such as Ford and Holden called on Ross as a consultant because of his expertise.

"Ross was a very private person, and he didn't tolerate fools," says Ian, "but he was always prepared to sacrifice his time to help people.

"He was more than happy to share his knowledge."

LPGA Executive Director Peter Gilbert says he used Ross as a touchstone when it came to auto LPG issues.

"I remember with fondness many conversations over the years where Ross shared his knowledge and experience, as well as his opinions," says Peter.

The Auto Gas Centre is trading as usual, offering 0.5kg to 45kg bottle fills, LPG parts and regulator reconditioning.



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

- [LPGA has agreed its objectives for 2015](#)
- [In Memoriam: RIP Ross McLennan](#)
- [Stuart Nash - Labour's Spokesman on Energy](#)

- [Hamilton gas network improvement programme complete](#)
- [New online video updates gasfitters on gas safety requirements](#)

Stuart Nash – Labour's Spokesman on Energy

My background is wide and varied with a predominance in business and strategy, but also includes a stint in the RNZAF, working in forestry and green tea in Japan, and guiding international tourists at a high-end West Coast resort just north of Haast.



Labour Spokesperson for Energy, Stuart Nash

I have a Master's degree in Forestry Science, a Masters in Management, and by the time you read this I will be (hopefully) just completing my Masters in Law; and then that's the end of the study!

What life has taught me, however, is that no amount of academic training or on-line research can ever take the place of practical experience that allows one to gain critical insights, interpret market data and trends and develop close connections and contacts.

So I want to start by saying that my style is not about lecturing industry experts on what should or should not happen in a certain sector, but rather consult with those who understand the issues and always work in partnership to come up with solutions that meet the requirements of everyone.

Having spent eight years importing and trading petrochemical derivatives into NZ, Australia and Singapore, I know a little about the industry in the sense that I developed a level of competency around modelling supply chain characteristics and understanding where the margins lie, who is capturing them and what I had to do to optimise my own profits.

What research has given me is the key statistics around the gas sector, however, what I would love to learn more about is the industry, so I issue an open invitation to meet with those who would like to discuss the issues and then provide solutions that will create opportunities. We won't always agree, however, I suspect that we will so more than most think.

There is one thing that I would like to say and that is New Zealand's global advantage and unique selling point in international markets is our clean green 100% pure brand.

In 2005, an attempt to quantify the value of our brand put its worth at around \$20b per year. It's my view that we don't currently live our brand values and we have three to five years maximum (but possibly less) to rectify this or else our brand will erode to the point where we become just another commodity economy competing with everyone else in an increasingly crowded market.

Our progress around renewable energy capacity and delivery is part of the clean green story and something that I believe any government, no matter what its colour, would like to see even greater progress on in the medium to long term.

Hamilton gas network improvement programme complete

A major gas network improvement programme that will benefit consumers in the Hamilton area is now complete.

The \$10 million project involved replacing steel pipes laid in the 1960s with new polyethylene pipes.

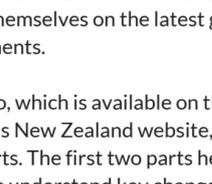
The new polyethylene pipes are more robust and durable, require less maintenance, and are more cost effective when constructing new networks and connections.

The new gas pipes will provide increased capacity and improve overall network security of supply for customers.

The need for replacement arose because the old pipelines and systems were reaching the end of their useful life.

The project has taken three years to complete, and covers extensive ground in central and eastern Hamilton.

Energy company, Vector, designed and managed the project, and Electrix was the principal local service provider that completed the physical on site work.

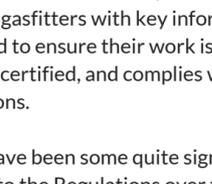


Steel pipes being removed on Clarence Street, Hamilton, as part of the gas network improvement programme.

New online video updates gasfitters on gas safety requirements

Gasfitters can now watch a video online to update themselves on the latest gas safety requirements.

The video, which is available on the Standards New Zealand website, is in three parts. The first two parts help gasfitters understand key changes to the gas regulations on certifying gasfitting work and assessing the risk of that work. The third video is an overview of the 2014 amendments to the Gas (Safety and Measurement) Regulations 2010.



Standards NZ Acting CEO, Michelle Wessing

Michelle Wessing, Acting Chief Executive of Standards New Zealand, said the video provides gasfitters with key information they need to ensure their work is safe, properly certified, and complies with the Regulations.

"There have been quite significant changes to the Regulations over the last few years. We thought a video that visually demonstrates what is involved would help gasfitters understand the key changes and what they mean in practice.

"We are very pleased with the final product which had a lot of input from gasfitters and regulators, and we hope our audience will feel the same."

Energy Safety, the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board, and Standards New Zealand combined to develop this resource, which can be viewed on the Standards New Zealand website.

Standards New Zealand would welcome feedback from practitioners on how helpful they find the video presentation. Feedback can be sent to marketing@standards.co.nz