

Annual Report 2008-2009

Operations Implemented under
the *Gas Act 2000*

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Acronyms

AGA	Australian Gas Association
AS	Australian Standards
ANZRA	Australian and New Zealand Reciprocity Association
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas
COAG	Council of Australian Government
DBYD	Dial Before You Dig (Vic/Tas Incorporated)
DIER	Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources
Director	Director of Gas Safety
ESV	Energy Safety Victoria
ENA	Energy Networks Australia
GIWG	Gas Industry Working Group
GSS	Gas Standards and Safety (unit of MIB)
GTRC	Gas Technical Regulators Committee
IGE	International Gas Engineers
ISO	International Standards Organisation
MCVE	Ministerial Council of Energy
k Pa	kilo Pascals
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
LP Gas	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MIB	Major Infrastructure Branch (unit of WST)
NER	National Energy Regulator
NG	Natural Gas
NLS	National licensing System
PIC	Plumbing Industry Commission - Victoria
RTO	Registered Training Organisation
TFS	Tasmanian Fire Service
TGN	Tas Gas Networks
TGSECP	Tasmanian Gas Supply Emergency Coordination Plan
TTMRC	Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement
VETASSESS	Vocational Education Training and Assessment Services
WST	Workplace Standards Tasmania

VISION

To provide leadership in gas infrastructure safety and technical standards, ensuring the evolving Natural Gas, Liquefied Natural Gas and LP Gas industry achieves levels of excellence in construction, operations, reliable supply, acceptable public safety and energy efficiency.

The Director of Gas Safety will:

- Ensure that gas infrastructure operations achieve high standards of safety, reliability and control of inherent risks.
- Coordinate enhanced gas fitter and gas workers competency and technical standards to ensure safe gas installations and infrastructure.
- Provide advice to the gas industry to achieve best practice in gas safety.
- Develop communications products and promote consumer understanding of gas safety through education and communication.
- Work with industry stakeholders to ensure the efficient and safe evolution of gas technology and work standards for Tasmanian consumers.
- In conjunction with national jurisdictions, work to achieve desired levels of national harmonisation in the regulation of gas safety technical standards.

We achieve our vision through our values expected from our team at all times.

Excellence

We strive for quality and excellence in our functions.

Accountability

We take responsibility for our actions and decisions.

Integrity

We make decisions on merit, based on facts, logic and due process.

Commitment

We work cooperatively, mentor and support other team members.

OVERVIEW and ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

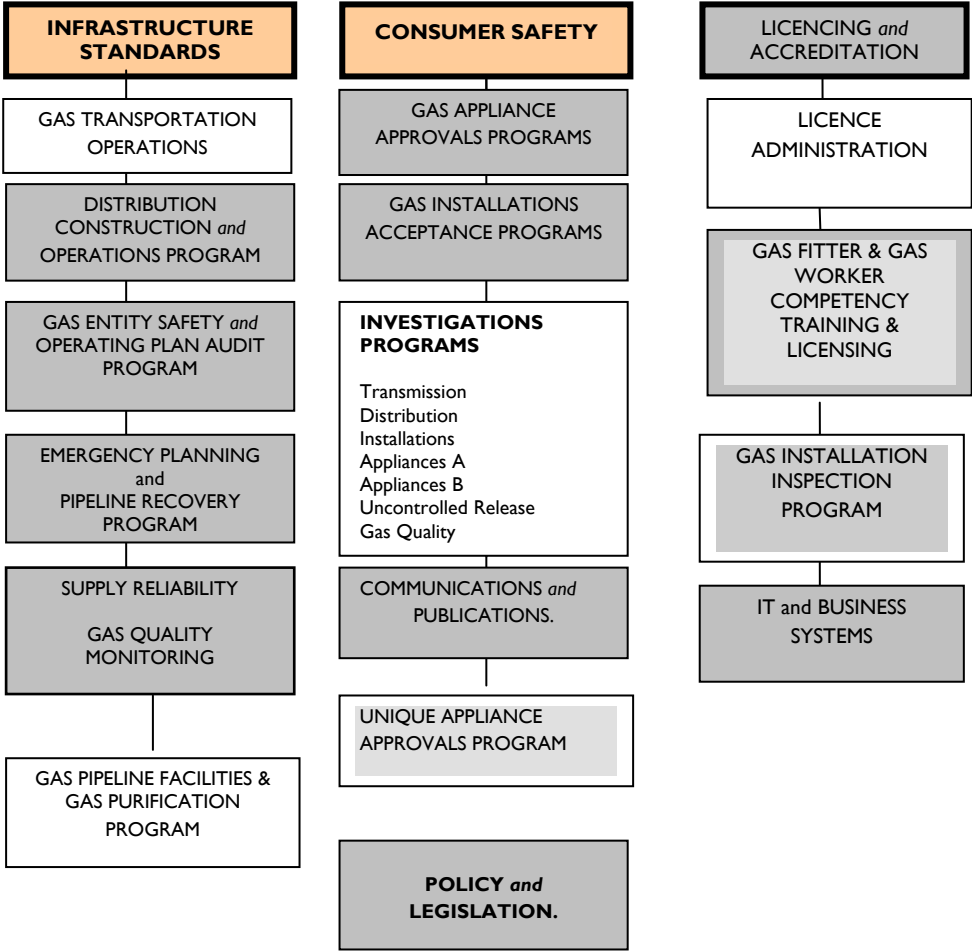
The administration of the *Gas Act 2000* has been undertaken by the Gas Standards and Safety Unit of Workplace Standards Tasmania (WST), under the direction of Mr Roy Ormerod, General Manager Workplace Standards Tasmania who is the appointed Director of Gas Safety pursuant to section 9(i) of the *Gas Act 2000*.

The Gas Standards and Safety unit is managed by the Manager of Gas Safety, Mr Jeff Eastoe who is delegated the role of the Director.

Following a restructure of the WST inspectorate, the Gas Standards and Safety (GSS) unit was transferred to a new Major Infrastructure Branch. This structure will assist in resource sharing and efficiencies for energy safety inspections. The Office of the Director of Gas Safety comprises six "Authorised Officers" who hold partial delegations of the Director and one Administrative Officer.

Administrative functions are centralised in Launceston with capability for *Gas Act 2000* safety and technical compliance programs in each region. Specialist policy functions are resourced from the Hobart based principal policy officer in conjunction with the WST policy and planning branch. The GSS unit operational structure and activities are shown in *Figure 1* below.

**GAS STANDARDS and SAFETY
(Office of the Director of Gas Safety)**



Denotes operations pursuant to Gas Act 2000

Figure I

INTRODUCTION

Natural Gas (NG)

It is satisfying to report that natural gas (NG) networks continue to provide a reliable supply of natural gas to an increasing number of consumers through Natural Gas Distribution Facilities operated by Tas Gas Networks Pty Ltd.

Operation of distribution networks have been without serious property damage or personal injury from uncontrolled gas escapes. *Refer Table 1.*

Commercial retailing of NG is undertaken by licensed gas entities; Aurora Energy Pty Ltd, Country Energy Pty Ltd, Option One Pty Ltd and TRU Energy Pty Ltd to industrial, commercial and retail consumers.

The Director has been involved with initial planning for future NG networks and network extensions.

The installation of gas “service connections” to new consumers is continuing in suburban, commercial and industrial areas, maintaining a demand for the Directors gas installations and gas appliance, safety and technical compliance programs.

The demand for the Directors installations acceptance program has remained constant despite the current economic conditions experienced in Tasmania. *Refer part 9.0, page 22.* Gas combustion skills expertise has remained in short supply within the gas industry thus limiting applications for type B gas appliance acceptances.

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

Stakeholder consultation during 2008 and the evolving BOC Limited LNG purification project identified a need for two new administrative and technical programs. These programs were the adoption by the director of technical and safety standards and development of staff capabilities for LNG gas purification and usage technology. Secondly a new worker licensing and competency training program to enable vehicle mechanics to convert road vehicles to liquefied natural gas (LNG).

It is pleasing to report the planning, development and implementation of a new worker competency training package for vehicle gas fitters by Skills Institute Tasmania and worker licensing scheme by Workplace Standards Tasmania (WST) has been completed.

The proposed Westbury LNG plant, approvals process is due for completion by mid 2010 with new legislative programs for NG purification, storage and operations expected to be implemented.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LP Gas)

Implementation of the Gas Act Amendment Bill 2008 and the proposed rescinding of the Dangerous Goods Regulations 1998 resulted in a requirement for additional Gas Act 2000 gas technical regulations addressing LP Gas storage, supply, installations, marine and vehicle conversion industries.

A comprehensive drafting program for development of gas technical regulations enabling amendment to the Gas (Safety) Regulations 2002 is expected to be completed by late 2009.

The evolving LNG and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) industries are expected to require adoption of new technical and safety standards as gas compression stations and evolving uses of LNG and CNG enter the energy market.

Emerging Trends

Emerging industry combustion and control technology for major gas appliances, to improve energy efficiencies is increasing the Director’s research and acceptance roles.

The GSS business model for identified new technologies, unique appliance standards and high pressure supply to meet foreseeable clean energy and electricity generation requirements is currently being progressively implemented by the Director and aligned to national standards.

The Office of the Director of Gas Safety is continuing to experience increased stakeholder service requests for a widening scope of technical issues and remains a central focus in ensuring safe, gas infrastructure, pipelines and gas installations supplying the Tasmanian communities energy demands.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

ACTIVITY	FUNCTION	SAFETY OUTCOME
GAS DISTRIBUTION		
Investigated uncontrolled gas incidents on gas infrastructure.	Identify causation of incidents and review operational standards.	Prevent reoccurrence of uncontrolled gas incidents, and ensure acceptable levels of public risk.
Continued the compliance program for gas service connections.	Ensure safe service connections to domestic commercial and industrial premises.	Maintain supply safety and control public risk.
Implemented the GSS emergency, incident management plan.	Ensure timely response to any loss of containment incident or supply emergency.	Manage inherent public risks from gas emergencies.
Commenced a high pressure - gas installation, emergency management preparedness strategy.	Ensure major gas installations achieve excellent levels of risk control and emergency preparedness.	Manage inherent risks and inform emergency response stakeholders.
GAS FITTER Licensing and GAS WORKER Accreditation		
Collaborated with stakeholders to identify required training and skills development for LNG and CNG workers.	Ensure that comprehensive standards for training reflect national competency standards in Occupational Licensing.	Ensure that competent persons undertake all forms of gas fitting work.
Participated in the National Licensing System (NLS) project for gas fitters.	Harmonise gas fitting regulations development pursuant to the Gas Act 2000, Occupational Licensing Act 2005, and the objectives of the NLS.	Adopt national competency requirements for Tasmanian gas fitters.
Investigate non compliant gas installation work standards and resultant safety issues.	Issue gas fitter and consumer disconnect or rectification notices.	Ensure gas installation safety standards for consumers.
GAS APPLIANCES AND INSTALLATIONS		
Investigated uncontrolled gas incidents on in situ and portable gas appliances.	Identify causation of incidents and review operational standards.	Prevent reoccurrence, produce safety publications, web information and implement product withdrawal standards.
Implement safety and quality program for high pressure gas installation design and fabrication.	Minimise the likelihood of inadequate design, fabrication, testing and commissioning.	Ensure a robust safety and quality assurance model is implemented.
Reviewed and implemented societal risk and thermal safety management standards for high pressure gas installations.	Ensure quality of management and planning for high pressure gas installation safety and operations.	Ensure community safety and continuity of supply to critical infrastructure.
Implement "major" type B gas appliance approval program.	Adopt international design, quality, acceptance and commissioning verification standards for major appliances.	Minimise the likelihood of unsafe appliances and improve reliability.
GAS TECHNICAL STANDARDS & WORKING GROUPS		
Researched reviewed and adopt relevant technical standards and codes for emerging technology.	Ensure consistent national and international standards apply to Tasmanian gas industry.	Ensure currency of intrinsic safety in the gas industry emerging technologies.

Reviewed and adopted new national technical standards for gas distribution networks	Ensure currency of Tasmanian gas networks compliance with national standards.	Minimise public risk and maximise supply reliability.
Reviewed and adopted new national technical standard for type B gas appliances.	Ensure currency of Tasmanian type B gas appliances with national standards.	Minimise public risk.
Research new technical requirements for gas combustion on electricity generation appliances.	Ensure adequacy of controls for inherent risks on natural gas cogeneration appliances.	Minimise public risk and enhance levels of electricity generation continuity.
STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS		
Member of the Occupational Licensing Act development committee.	Development of contemporary licensing model.	Ensure accountability and competency arrangements deliver maximum consumer benefits.
Contribute to national Gas Technical Regulator Committee programs.	Harmonise product and legislative outcomes to national COAG standards.	Maximise safety and economic outcomes to gas consumers.
Member of the National Licensing Scheme	Provide policy advice.	Harmonise legislative outcomes to national COAG standards.
COMMUNICATIONS & EDUCATION MANAGEMENT		
Administered a gas specific Inter net site and gas safety publications.	Facilitate stakeholder and consumer access to gas technical standards and safety information.	Provide timely delivery of industry communications products.
STAFF DEVELOPMENT		
Identify continuous professional development, and training opportunities.	Developed contemporary technical and management competencies to meet evolving technologies.	Maintain currency of director of gas safety role Tasmanian gas industry.
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION		
Administered, reviewed and identified opportunity for business management improvement.	Continue development of contemporary business unit models.	Efficiently administer all business processes.
POLICY DEVELOPMENT		
Developed and implemented new vehicle gas fitter licensing and competency scheme for evolving LNG and CNG.	Development of contemporary licensing and competency standards.	Ensure highest competency standards for LNG storage and vehicle industries.
Developed draft gas technical regulations.	Development of contemporary technical standards and regulation.	Ensure highest standards for NG and LP Gas industries.
Developed criteria for tolerable societal risk exposure from encroachment into gas supply corridors.	Quantify acceptable and tolerable public risk profiles.	Public guidelines for land and building use, in proximity of gas corridors.

Table 1

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

I.0 GAS DISTRIBUTION

I.1 Natural Gas Networks

No further network extensions were approved this reporting period. Planning reviews for proposed new networks has commenced prior to design approvals and construction acceptance by the director. Refer to table 2 for current network detail.

I.2 Gas Network – Audit and Inspection Program

Tas Gas Networks gas regional service connection program was subject to ongoing WST safety and technical standards inspection and internal Tas Gas Networks quality assurance audits.

In total 44 service installation audits were completed with safety rectification requests completed by the NG distributor.

I.3 Incident and Accident Reporting

Incident and accident reporting by the distributor has been reviewed with the collation of data now proving beneficial to identify incident trends. Further modelling and trend identification will be undertaken to assist preventative program outcomes.

Level 3 incidents responses were required to 8 callouts by emergency services.

I.4 Infrastructure damage

The Director has facilitated gas and electrical infrastructure owner meetings to identify improvements in the notification of civil works and the accurate locating of buried infrastructure aimed at preventing third party damage to gas and electrical mains.

This new program aimed at educating utility owners to meet their safety obligations when working in the vicinity of gas infrastructure will be ongoing during 2009 -2010.

I.5 Gas Distribution Standards Technical Standards

The new edition of Australian Standard, AS 4645 – 2008 *Gas Distribution Networks* was released in late 2008. The director has prescribed this standard to gas entities for gas network design, construction and operations.

This new standard will not require gas entities to retrospectively modify networks.

TASMANIAN – LOCATION OF OPERATIONAL NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES and ISOLATED LP GAS NETWORKS

NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION FACILITY	SUBURB / TOWN RECEIVING GAS SUPPLY	GAS FACILITY, NEW EXTENSIONS COMMISSIONED 2008/09	New Facility Planning Reviews
BURNIE	Brooklyn Downlands Havenview Romaine	Nil	
BELL BAY	Bell Bay Industrial Estate	Nil	
DEVONPORT	City East Devonport West Devonport	Nil	
HOBART	Hobart City Battery Point Bridgewater Derwent Park Gagebrook Glebe Glenorchy Goodwood Lenah Valley Lutana Mt Stuart Moonah Montrose North Hobart Newtown Old Beach Sandy Bay Salamanca West Hobart West Moonah	Nil	
LAUNCESTON	Launceston City Mowbray Invermay South Launceston Sandhill Kings Meadows Youngtown Prospect West Launceston	Nil	
LONGFORD	Restricted mains access	Nil	
ULVERSTONE			yes
WESTBURY	Industrial Connection only	Nil	yes
WYNYARD	Wynyard restricted mains access	Nil	
LP Gas ISOLATED GAS FACILITY			
LAUNCESTON Glenara Lakes	LP Gas reticulation	na	
ST HELENS Sunhaven Villas	LP Gas Reticulation	na	

Table 2

1.5 Service and Meter Connections Standards

To reduce service connection and meter installation damage the distributor has improved service installation standards. The GSS unit has collaborated with the NG distributor to review gas consumer service connections and meter set designs.

A high proportion of new gas services to prescribed standard and complex gas installations are field inspected by GSS inspectors for compliance prior to commissioning.

1.6 Gas Installation Approval, Notifications and Procedures

The Directors consumer installation approvals “connections process”, with the NG distributor for complex and prescribed standard installations continues to operate satisfactorily. A review of LP Gas notification procedures has commenced by the director.

1.7 Emergency Response Capability

The NG distributor Tas Gas Networks response times to uncontrolled gas escape incidents continues to be satisfactory.

The Director has commenced a monitoring project to determine emergency response capability for LP Gas suppliers in Tasmania.

A number of meetings were held with the Tasmanian Fire Service and State Emergency Service and the Director. Aimed at improving the response to inherent risks from NG networks and emergency conditions, this program will be ongoing in 2010.

The Director provided an overview of high pressure pipeline emergency issues to police and fire services staff through a state emergency services forum. The continuation of this program will include the participation of NG gas entities with a focus on uncontrolled leaks from high pressure gas mains and the urban risk.

1.8 Distribution Mains Equipment Failure

A small number of repairs on NG mains “low flow” gas leaks, in polyethylene strategic mains were monitored by the Directors office. The continuation of this monitoring program is intended to identify causation and review scheduled maintenance survey procedures.

1.9 Isolated Gas Distribution Networks

Emergency response planning with the gas supplier and distributor has been implemented for isolated gas distribution networks supplied with dual gas types (LP gas and NG).

2.0 GAS INSTALLATIONS

2.1 Installations > 200 kPa - Safety Standards

Each installation operating above 200kPa is monitored or inspected by the Director’s office during each stage of design, gas supply pipeline fabrication and gas appliance installation, testing, pre commissioning and commissioning.

An increase in the use of NG co-generation (steam and power generation) turbine installations will increase the number of installations operating above 200kPa.

The program requires certification and acceptance at design, fabrication, installation, testing.

2.1.1 Installation Safety Acceptance Program

All installations > 200kPa now require a gas safety management plan approval and materials quality assurance audit.

2.2 Gas Installations, Notification and Certification

The Gas Act 2000 installation notification and certification procedures used by gas fitters to certify work compliance is working effectively. New certification notices required to meet new Occupational Licensing work classes and amended *Gas (Safety) Regulations 2002* for evolving gas industries will be introduced in 2010.

2.3 Major Gas Appliance, Acceptance Program

Implementation of individualised acceptance procedures for major and unique, Type B gas appliances is complete. Individual certifications by persons approved by the director are required at the design, pre commissioning and commissioning stages to meet the requirements of Australian and accepted international standards.

Operator gas safety management plans for the management of gas safety on the site, are required to be implemented prior to live gas commissioning operations.

2.4 Major Power Generation High Pressure Installations

Major high pressure gas installations for power generation have required significant staff resource during 2008 -09.

Design acceptance programs, with proponents and their equipment suppliers for the proposed Aurora Tamar Valley Power Station has been ongoing during 2008-09.

Construction, commissioning and safety management approvals will be ongoing into the fourth quarter 2009.

Additional numbers of high pressure gas installations to supply “gas turbines” are expected in Tasmania on cogeneration energy projects.

2.5 Complex Gas Installation Design Acceptance Program

Staff completed the design assessment of 194 complex gas installations and 54 prescribed standard installations. All components are assessed for functionality, pressure rating and currency of components safety certification. Testing and commissioning plans may be assessed by the Directors office prior to live gas operations.

Policy development for new standards on gas installations involving:

- horizontal directional drilling; and
- work in public land; and
- work within electrical utility easements; and
- requests for elevated gas entity supply pressure has commenced.

2.6 Prescribed Standard Gas Installations Acceptance Program

The safety and technical standards considered for acceptance of designs on “multi residential” prescribed standard gas installations has required a review of criteria as the number of factors encountered on high density residential consumer installations grow. The director accepted 56 installations with additional emphasis on whole of site planning, the gas distributors service connection engineering standards and building owners site emergency management standards.

2.7 Gas Technical and Safety Regulations

Draft amendments to the *Gas (Safety) Regulations 2002* are currently under development for stakeholder comment.

This review is expected to meet emerging gas industry trends and replace legislative requirements rescinded under the *Dangerous Goods Regulations 1998*.

3.0 **GAS RETAILING**

3.1 Emergency Gas Curtailment Planning

Implementation of the Tasmanian Gas Supply Emergency Coordination Plan (TGSECP) to manage local gas supply curtailment issues and emergency incidents public notification protocols has been ongoing.

The requirements for natural gas emergency supply protocols by licensed gas retailers are now embedded in the TGSECP.

A valuable “non emergency” gas supply curtailment program was implemented successfully by the NG distributor and retailers to managed consumer supply during gas mains repairs at Prospect in 2009.

The TGSECP remains co-ordinated with the National Gas Supply Coordination Plan for gas supply sourced from Longford, Victoria.

3.2 Gas Retail Supply

A small number of gas supply commercial arrangements through Victorian retailers are continuing. The director is satisfied that current gas transmission and distribution arrangements do not create additional risk to Tasmanian consumers through the pipeline transport arrangements.

4.0 **GAS TECHNICAL and SAFETY STANDARDS**

4.1 Technical Standards Development

Development of safety and technical standards for the Tasmanian gas industry is ongoing to meet emerging trends and technology. Consultation between WST, industry stakeholders, end users, interstate regulators and gas industry organisations is ongoing to ensure currency, relevance and completeness of Tasmanian technical gas standards.

4.2 LP Gas Standards

The director held discussions with LP Gas suppliers and stakeholders on technical and safety standards for gas storage systems and isolated gas distribution networks to coordinate recent legislative amendment contained in the Gas Act Amendment Bill 2008.

The Directors policy and technical staff contributed to a comprehensive internal review of Australian Standard AS 5601 – 2004 Gas Installations. As a result of the national review the standard has been redeveloped and divided into 2 parts:

- Part 1: General installations; and
- Part 2: LP Gas installations in caravans and boats for non-propulsive purposes.

New requirements contained in the standard necessitate changes to technical gas legislation, work notification and certification requirements. These changes are currently under development by the director.

4.3 Unique Equipment Standards

The Directors office has dedicated considerable resources to research and adoption of international standards for the regulation of gas fired turbines and stationary engines for electricity and co generation from waste thermal energy. The research has resulted in consolidation and adoption of standards for turbine and engine assessment, and commissioning.

New worker competency standards proposals are currently being drafted for stakeholder comment.

Policy development, for operators specialised safety management requirements and WST audit programs have been completed.

4.3 Gas Technical Regulators Committee (GTRC)

Membership of this national committee regularly provides Tasmania with current gas appliance and gas technical and safety information exchange. Member communications frequently result in product warnings to the Tasmanian public or gas fitter education.

The committee is currently a working member of the Ministerial Council of Energy (MCE) in coordinating the draft national Energy Technical and Safety Harmonisation Enhancement Plan.

COMMITTEES & ORGANISATIONS

COMMITTEE	MEMBER ORGANISATIONS	COMMITTEE PURPOSE
Occupational Licensing	WST, Office of Post Compulsory Education & Training, Skills Institute Tasmania,	Development of Occupational Licensing Regulations and implementation of the Occupational Licensing Act.
Gas Industry Working Group (GIWG)	Office of The Energy Regulator; DIER (Office of Energy; Planning and Conservation); WST; Skills Institute Tasmania; Dept of Economic Development; Licensed Gas Entities.	This group ceased meeting during 2008-09. Administrative requirements are now addressed directly between the Directors office and other stakeholders as required.
Gas Technical Regulators Committee (GTRC)	All AUS states and New Zealand Gas Technical Regulators.	Harmonisation of national gas safety standards and advice to COAG decisions. The director did not attend the last meeting due to budgetary financial constraints. Electronic communications between members continues regularly.
National Gas Emergency Response and Coordination Committee (NGERAC)	Infrastructure Owners, WST, DIER (Office of Energy & Planning), Vencorp, Office of Energy Safety VIC, National Energy Regulator.	A functional committee to coordinate across jurisdiction emergency gas supplies.

Table 3

5.0 GAS APPLIANCE & COMPONENT SAFETY

5.1 Gas Appliance Certifying “External Authorities”

The Director of Gas Safety approved OAMPS OCEANA Ltd as an external authority for gas appliance - class safety certification in Tasmania.

OAMPS Oceana Ltd combined with the Australian Gas Association (AGA) and SAI Global provides Tasmania with nationally recognised gas appliance and components, safety certification schemes.

The AGA provides a separate certification scheme for single refurbished appliances where an applicable Australian technical standard is available. The AGA also notify the director of appliances and components withdrawn from certification.

5.2 Appliance and Component Relevant Standards

Technical and safety compliance, relevant standards for gas appliances and components are periodically reviewed declared and may be notified in the Tasmanian gazette by the Director.

WST has reviewed the draft “essential safety requirements for gas appliances” Australian standard. Nationally delays in finalising and releasing this standard have occurred. Publication of the standard is expected in 2010, this will provide a universal standard for unique appliances and will be adopted by the director.

5.3 Gas Appliances - Individual Appliance Certification Scheme

The Director has approved two Tasmanian gas fitters to conduct individual type A gas appliance certification. This scheme allows new non certified individual appliances imported in to Tasmanian to undergo inspection for safety certification pursuant to a relevant technical standard determined by the Director.

Mutual recognition arrangements with interstate gas regulators enable importation of unique appliances previously approved by other interstate regulators. Certification of imported appliances has been dealt with, through these mutual recognition arrangements and in close cooperation with Energy Safety Victoria.

5.3.1 Individual External Authority

Policy development has been completed and implemented, which enables suitably qualified persons to apply for ‘external authority’ status for the purposes of approving individual gas appliances, pursuant to section 70 of the *Gas Act 2000*.

To be eligible to apply for individual ‘external authority’ status, a person must be able to demonstrate:

- Suitable technical training and/or trade qualifications; and
- Suitable experience in appliance servicing, refurbishing, testing and commissioning; and
- Access to suitable testing facilities and equipment; and
- Suitable technical report writing training or experience; and
- Documented quality assurance or management procedures.

5.3.2 Products Withdrawn from Market

A model for notification of gas appliance product suspension, and products withdrawn from market due to safety factors is operational.

Information is regularly provided to gasfitters through the Directors web site.

A safety alert was displayed on the WST website in relation to a potential risk associated with a gas barbeque distributed by a National supplier. The company concerned, liaised with the AGA and GTRC to have the excessive radiant heat, design issue satisfactorily resolved.

Incidents involving portable LP Gas single burner cooker explosions have occurred in Tasmania and nationally. These appliances are fuelled by disposable butane canisters, which have exploded while the appliance was in use. Investigations into the product design, gas quality, public warnings and labelling are progressing nationally. A safety alert has been placed on the WST website.

A number of other gas appliances and component safety issues were also displayed on the WST website.

5.4 Australian and New Zealand Gas Appliance Certification Standards

The director is continuing work with the GTRC to meet the requirements of the MCE to implement an Australian and New Zealand uniform model for gas appliance safety certification. New Zealand legislative amendments are required to their certification scheme to enable this mutual program to be completed. New Zealand arrangements are expected to conform to the GTRC requirements by late 2010.

This Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement will require Tasmanian legislative amendment to the Gas Act 2000 to accommodate this COAG gas appliance harmonisation requirement. It will allow appliances manufactured and certified in new Zealand to be imported and distributed in to Australia without further safety certification.

5.5 Prohibition of Sale and Recall of Gas Appliances

The Director of Gas Safety has used delegated responsibilities of the Director of Gas pursuant to sec 79A-C of the Act for prohibition of supply of unsafe gas appliances.

A potential safety issue due to potential emission of high levels of carbon monoxide has been identified on a nationally distributed inbuilt model, space heater. The director's office liaised with the AGA and GTRC to determine potential number of appliances that may be installed in Tasmania.

The appliances were initially installed in the late 1970's. WST research so far indicates small numbers have been installed in Tasmania.

Due to the large numbers installed in Victoria a recall notice in relation to the appliance has been issued. The director is monitoring this matter.

5.7 Sale of Non - Certified Gas Appliances

The Director issued an order to a national retailer prohibiting the sale of an un-certified gas appliance in Tasmania. Appropriate procedures were implemented to prevent a reoccurrence nationally.

Staff assessed an LP Gas fired mobile appliance manufactured in the United States of America (used to repel insects) for sale and use in Tasmania. All relevant (gas and electrical) components were appropriately assessed.

Co-operation between the director's office and Electrical Standards and Safety unit staff resulted in a joint inspection and testing program.

A letter of "no objections" for the appliance being sold or used in Tasmania was issued.

5.8 Acceptance of type B Gas Appliances

The office completed acceptances for 94 Type B gas appliance designs and modifications. These are usually major appliances requiring combustion engineering assessment before acceptance and commissioning.

The Director has implemented a new quality acceptance model, to assess Type B appliances manufactured internationally before being considered for Tasmanian use.

5.9 Internet Sales of Gas Appliances

Sale of new non certified products, imported in to Australia or purchased via the internet continues to be difficult for Australian gas regulators to regulate. There has been an increase in the number of identified importers wholesaling gas appliances with irregular safety certification. This practice is of concern, as it is creating a significant public risk.

Members of the GTRC frequently communicate new issues to interstate stakeholders for attention at the point of importation into Australia. Cooperation with the website operators to control illegal operations is improving.

6.0 GAS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

6.1 High Pressure Gas Installations

High pressure installations (>1050kPa) have been targeted for examination of emergency preparedness, prevention and emergency response planning, with the Directors office facilitating meetings with consumers and emergency response organisations. The examination of inherent risk from high pressure gas pipelines will remain an ongoing program for all high pressure installation and its immediate built environment.

6.2 Emergency Management of Embedded Networks

The development of policy for embedded networks emergency management is ongoing. This policy focuses on the building owner and consumer's responsibility for gas emergency planning in buildings of multiple consumers.

6.3 Tasmanian Gas Supply Emergency Coordination Plan – Staff Availability

The Director has committed to the Tasmanian Gas Emergency Response and Coordination Plan (TGESCP) requirements. A staff "availability roster" is operational for after hour response to onshore gas incidents, interstate or offshore supply or gas quality issues.

Internal planning is continuing for gas consumer notification procedures and high risk appliance combustion engineering requirements during gas quality emergencies. Pipeline recovery planning with licensed gas entities and the Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources, is also aimed at implementing the Tasmanian energy supply plans of the Tasmanian Energy Coordination Advisory Committee.

6.4 Emergency Incident Coordination

The Director maintains management plans and internal procedures for WST "on shore", emergency gas incident response protocols. Emergency *Incident* Response Management plans and staff availability roster for after hour response has operated successfully.

Response to 22 low risk incidents was undertaken both during and after normal hours of work for the NG and LP Gas industries.

Failure to notify the Director of fires in gas appliances or uncontrolled release incidents occurred on 4 occasions. These incidents are subject to rectification action by the director. The gas distributor frequently updates their emergency communications protocols.

6.5 LP Gas Emergency Protocols

The director's office maintains internal emergency communication protocols and contact data for Tasmanian based LP Gas suppliers as part of the Directors Emergency Management Planning process.

This data enables effective communication during any after hour's response by staff.

6.6 LP Gas Proposed Technical Working Group

Following gas emergency planning and the current development program for technical gas safety regulations, a request to be part of a proposed LP Gas industry technical working group is to be developed in future GSS business plans.

7.0 STAFF DEVELOPMENT

7.1 Professional Development

Continuous development is encouraged by all authorised officers and administration staff. Staff development and mentoring is ongoing with additional staff training requirements commenced for:

- major and unique appliance - combustion engineering standards.
- unique gas component safety certification standards.
- high pressure gas infrastructure quality assurance standards.
- LNG technical and safety standards.
- societal quantitative and qualitative thermal risk modelling.

Specialised technical library resources and training have been sourced or identified to meet expected gas industry emerging technologies, energy efficiency and risk modelling.

Staff training and qualification schedule

Course	Staff completed 09	Staff studying 09
Diploma of Government (Workplace Inspection)	2	1
Diploma of Business (Quality Auditing)	1	
Cert IV Restricted Type B Gas Fitting	1	1
Cert IV Unrestricted Type B Gas Fitting		1

A review of the regional program requirements, delivery capability and role diversity has commenced.

NG purification processes, combustion physics, fire engineering and risk modelling needs are continuing to emerge to meet public risk standards on new technology, Program delivery capability is under review.

7.2 Type B Appliance, Design Assessment Capability

Ongoing staff training in type B gas appliance, design assessment and combustion engineering, has been implemented. The planned southern regional Type B appliance design assessment capability is now functioning with inter region back up.

8.0 DISTRIBUTION “GAS WORKER” TRAINING and ACCREDITATION

8.1 Gas Distribution Training

There has been ongoing collaboration with the NG distribution industry and the Tasmanian Skills Institute to ensure that relevant safety standards are adopted into the gas industry, training package.

Delivery of the Gas Distribution, Certificate II and III program remains a priority for Tasmanian natural gas industry.

8.2 National Training Harmonisation

Energy Networks Australia (ENA), through COAG is proposing a nationally recognised gas skills passport for gas distribution and transmission workers.

This proposal is expected to be further examined during the Energy Technical and Safety Harmonisation Enhancement Plan development coordinated through the MCE.

9.0 **GAS FITTER TRAINING and ACCREDITATION**

9.1 Gasfitter Certification

In total 309 gas fitters have certificates of competencies for NG, gas fitting, issued by the Director of Industry Safety under the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995*. Worker certification requirements apply to NG, consumer installation gas fitting work, pursuant to the Gas Act 2000. Refer Table 4.

This interim arrangement is planned to cease when the Occupational Licensing Act 2005, administrative gas regulations are introduced, coordinating NG and the LP Gas licensing scheme within one legislative administrative structure.

Draft gas fitting work determinations and competency standards pursuant to the Occupational Licensing Act are complete. Development will be finalised in coordination with the National Licensing Scheme requirements.

Licenses Issued for Gasfitter License Category	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09
Type A Gas Fitting (Natural Gas)	28	39	52	31	27
Type B Restricted Gas Fitting (Natural Gas)	23	11	4	11	8
Type B Unrestricted Gas Fitting (Natural Gas)	4	3	5	-	3
Examination conducted for Type B licenses	na	15	5	13	11

Table 4

Licensing administration processes and IT capability are delivered through the GSS unit. This arrangement is expected to be transferred to the occupational licensing unit within Workplace Standards Tasmania in 2010.

This will reduce some administrative functions within the office of the Director of Gas Safety.

9.2 Council of Australian Governments - National Licensing System

The director provided policy advice and participated in the development of the NLS for gas fitting through the gas fitting project committee.

The director's representative attended interstate regulator and stakeholder workshop meetings, these meetings identified and prescribe drafting instructions for:

- Worker eligibility and renewal criteria ;
- Granting, renewal, retention of licence and licence lending;
- License disqualification register;
- Enforcement modelling, including worker offences and penalties; and
- Administrative review and appeal processes.

The director will have an ongoing input to this project, pending the proposed national implementation of the NLS on 1 July 2012.

9.3 Industrial Gas Fired Engines – Worker competencies

The current worker training and competency standards for defined gas work on large industrial stationary engines (reciprocating or rotating) supplied by reticulated gas fuel systems, supplying greater than 1 GJ/hr (LPG or natural gas), is currently being reviewed.

It is proposed to examine in conjunction with operators and educators, type B gas fitting work within five categories:

- Combustion equipment referenced in the scope of AS 3814 *Industrial fuel fired appliances*.
- Rotating engines (gas turbines) prescribed in ISO 21789 *Gas turbines* or IGE/UP/9 *Applications of Natural gas and Fuel oil systems to gas turbines* or AS 3814.
- Reciprocating engines (combustion engines). Relevant standards to be determined.
- Rotating industrial stationary engines (up to 1,000 MJ/hr) fuelled by LPG, natural gas or CNG prescribed in Draft ISO 19372 *Gas turbines* or AS 3814.
- Reciprocating industrial stationary engines (up to 1,000 MJ/hr) fuelled by LPG, natural gas or CNG. Relevant standards to be determined.

9.4 Gas Fitter Examinations

The alliance with the Victorian, Plumbing Industry Commission for access to an electronic examination system is maintained.

Successful completion of Tasmanian Skills Institute, training packages in Type B gas appliances enables a gasfitter to undertake competency examinations conducted through the director's office.

Future Type B gas fitter competency assessment is planned for recognition under the national training package and assessment by Tasmanian registered training organisations.

9.5 Development of Assessment and Training Criteria for Overseas Gas Fitters

Under current overseas mutual recognition agreements, WST is obliged to issue overseas gas fitting applicants with a provisional certificate of competency (must work under supervision), pending formal assessment of their qualifications and identification of any gap training requirements by GSS.

In consultation with the Registered Training Organisation (RTO) - Tasmanian Skills Institute, the director has developed appropriate assessment and gap training criteria (theoretical and practical) for overseas gas fitting applicants. This arrangement enables applicants to be appropriately assessed and trained to local standards.

Successful completion of gap training enables the applicant to apply to the Director of Industry Safety, for a Certificate of Competency in Gas fitting (unrestricted). The gas fitter is then able to certify their own gas fitting work, enhancing their employment portability.

A policy document in relation the following has also been developed including the:

- ANZRA mutual recognition licensing requirements (overseas applicants).
- VETASSESS mutual recognition licensing requirements (overseas applications – off shore skills assessment).

9.6 Automotive Gas Fitting

A proposal in 2008 by a consortium of Tasmanian transport business operators, to modify existing heavy haulage fleets and use LNG as a fuel for their fleets, necessitated the

development of a relevant worker training, competency and licensing system for automotive gas fitters by WST.

A working group of stakeholders was established to identify eligibility and determination of worker competency requirements for CNG, LNG and LP Gas automotive gas fitting in Tasmania.

As a result, a complete licensing administrative and training system for automotive gas fitting for CNG, LNG and LP Gas has been declared a 'specified task' under the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 2005*, pending the development of Automotive Gas Fitting Regulations pursuant to the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*.

Existing Dangerous Goods legislation coverage of LP Gas for automotive purposes is due to be rescinded on 1 July 2009. It is proposed that amendments be made to the Gas (Safety) Regulations 2002, to accommodate LP Gas requirements for automotive gas fitting.

9.7 Gas Fitting, Work Certification Monitoring

A WST database records all gas fitting certifications and is maintained and reviewed by the director. Interpretative and administrative systems for monitoring the performance of gas fitters, is implemented to meet administrative requirements for gas fitter self certified, standard gas installations.

9.8 Vehicle Gas Fitting – Work Certification

WST maintains a data base of all self certifying licensed vehicle gas fitters and work completed. Planned coordination with DIER vehicle licensing division will link vehicle registration and fuel conversion certification.

10.0 **COMMUNICATIONS AND GAS SAFETY EDUCATION**

Emphasis is placed on the development of policy and educational information to inform stakeholders of legislative and technical matters. *Table 5* summarises these activities.

COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

PROGRAM	NEW or MANAGED OUTPUT 2007-08	TARGET AUDIENCE
Gas Standards and Safety "Internet site"	Maintained a "gas safety & technical standards" web site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas Consumers • Gas Fitters • Gas Workers • Gas Distributors • Community • Rural landowners • Infrastructure owners
Gas quality curtailment standards	Director's draft guide for Emergency Natural Gas Supply Quality Limits has been released for comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WST • Director • Distribution entity • Retailers
Emergency response standards	Directors Emergency <i>Incident</i> Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff of the Office of the Director of Gas Safety
Emergency supply management	Directors Emergency <i>Supply</i> Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff of the Office of Gas Safety
Gas Installation Major safety and standards guide	Directors Guide and requirements for gas safety management on Gas Installations major.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumers • Gas staff • Gas fitters

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment certifiers
> 200 kPa gas installation safety and standards guide	Certification requirements and commissioning schedule guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas staff • Designers • Fabricators and installers.
Complex gas installation guide	Draft guide for work in public land and on electrical utility easements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas fitters
Complex gas installation application	Draft for new application form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas fitters
Worker licensing eligibility guide	International gas fitter competency recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas fitter • Director
Gas safety and technical publications.	Requirements for Gas Installations Operating In Excess of 200kPa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas fitters • Consultants • Inspectors
	Draft Guide for Societal risk criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director
	Draft Guide for thermal radiation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director

Table 5

11.0 PROGRAM OUTPUTS

11.1 Policy Development and Legislation

The director provided policy resources as part of the working group which developed the new Dangerous Substances (Safe Handling) Regulations 2008. The unit's gas expertise was required to enable translation of gas storage, caravan and marine craft technical requirements into legislative policy.

DIER and the Director's office are currently developing policy for "embedded gas networks". This policy is designed to allow administration of installation safety, gas quality and consumption metering on multi consumer sites where the gas supply is retailed by an individual property owner or manager.

Work continued with the development of gas fitting technical regulations and training determinations pursuant to the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*

11.2 Business Administration, Office of the Director of Gas Safety

Operation and maintenance of administrative systems primary outputs are identified below in Table 6.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	OUTPUTS	REASON
Business Document Control	Administer the document and publications register.	Maintenance of document and publications standards.
Web Development and Management	Review and update the gas web site.	Quality control of public documents.
Certificate of Competency Examinations	Administer applications, licensing, records and databases.	Administer the licensing examination program.
Gasfitter licensing	License assessment and renewal.	Verification of training and license standards.
Gasfitter installations notification database	Gas fitter certification data.	Verify gas fitter certifications of gas installations.
Gas statistical data	Manage statistical collation	Manage gas resources.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	OUTPUTS	REASON
management systems	and operations review	
Communications Management System	Internal deliver of relevant and timely publications.	Identification of, safety, training and educational needs and stakeholder expectations.
Staff Training Data Base	Relevant and timely training information and delivery of the Dip of Government. (Inspection –Gas).	Maintenance of essential technical and contemporary procedural skills and knowledge.
Staff competency standards	Implement relevant gas inspection competency standards.	Ensure essential procedural competency against technical standards.
Bi-Monthly Gas Standards & Safety Unit Meetings	Management of business planning.	Gas issue identification, decision making, planning and review.
Gas distribution commissioning and services program	Deliver 3 regional distribution infrastructure, approvals and inspection program.	Control public risk.
Gas installations Acceptance program	Deliver 3 regional installation technical compliance programs.	Consumer safety.
Gas appliance (type A) safety management	Identify and implement unsafe gas appliance notifications and alerts.	Consumer safety.
Gas appliance design and installation acceptance (type B)	Deliver 3 regional Type B appliance technical compliance programs.	Consumer safety.
Gas appliance approval (type A) program	Conduct safety approval procedures for appliances and establish national alliances.	Consumer safety.
Accident and incident investigation program.	Respond to risk to supply and public safety on gas transmission, distribution and installations.	Community safety.
Installation disconnections and reconnection procedures.	Deliver timely disconnection orders.	Control unsafe or non compliant gas installations.
Undertake “commercial sensitivity” assessment of gas infrastructure information records.	Deliver timely “Freedom Of Information” requests.	Preserve information confidentiality.
Management Reporting	Deliver management reports, quarterly and annual reports.	Report operations of the Office of the Director of Gas Safety.

Table 6

11.3 Field Operations Gas Inspectorate Unit

11.3.1 Statistical Information

General statistical information on the field operations is attached. *Refer to table 7.*

11.3.2 Complex Gas Installations Standards

The trend for an increase in the total acceptances of complex gas installation reached a plateau in 2008, this level appears to be holding despite the Tasmanian economic conditions and reduced network mains construction activity.

LP Gas monitoring and approval programs have increased with the introduction of the Gas Amendment Bill 2008. Planned monitoring and acceptance programs in rural and country regions have not increased due to demands of major NG projects.

It is pleasing to report from field inspections activity that an escalation in the level of gas fitting work now reflects an increasing knowledge by gas fitters for controlling inherent risks, thus enhancing overall gas fitting work safety standards.

Major project field inspections and commissioning programs have had a significant increase in field inspection time, due to the need to ensure stringent controls on high pressure installations construction and operations management.

11.3.3 Multi Residential Installations

All prescribed standard installations (multi residential premises) acceptances are now assessed through one staff member. This has enabled the program to develop succinct and consistent assessment models as outlined in paragraph 2.6.

FIELD OPERATIONS (Gas program criteria)	08/09	07/08	06/07	1/6/05 to 31/5/06	04/05	03/04	02/03
Gas Installations							
Complex Gas Installations Design Accepted.	121	137	188	169	113	68	27
Complex Gas Installation Design Modification Accepted	74	57	64	34	na	na	na
Prescribed Standard gas installation design Accepted.	56	51	16	1	na	na	na
Prescribed Standard gas installation design modification accepted.	0	3	nil	na	na	na	na
Prescribed Standard gas installation field inspections.	56	na	11	na	na	na	na
Standard gas installation disconnection inspections		11	13	na	na	na	na
Major installations > 1050 KPa operating pressure acceptances	8	na	na	na	na	na	2
Gas Appliances							
Type "B" Appliances Designs accepted.	73	68	73	120	83	44	41
Type "B" Appliance Modifications accepted.	21	23	14	23	-	-	-
Type "B" field commissioning.	114	96	111	141	111	83	167
Type A appliance approval by director	2	1	4	na	na	na	na
Major appliance (gas turbines)	7	na	na	na	3	na	na

FIELD OPERATIONS (Gas program criteria)	08/09	07/08	06/07	1/6/05 to 31/5/06	04/05	03/04	02/03
<i>commissioning acceptances</i>							
Gas Fitter Licensing							
Number of Type A and / or Type B certificate of competency/natural gas issued.	37	32	59	51	54	12	20
Total Tasmanian certificated natural gas, gasfitters	309	272	241	180	112	58	na
Total licensed LP Gas fitters	na	333	na	na	na	na	na
Gas Distribution Mains, Services & Installations							
Gas mains construction / commissioning audits.	12	4	8	18	147	24	-
Directors consent to construct or commission	4	na	na	na	na	na	na
Natural gas service installations regional audits	44	3	1	nil	na	na	na
Natural gas service installation inspections.	3	276	232	na	na	na	na
Gas mains construction inspections.	0	44	128	342	na	na	na
Gas transmission receiving station construction audits.	0	2	0	1	90	28	na
Gas transmission receiving station inspections.	2	7	1	6	na	na	na
Gas Disconnection Orders to a gas entity.	0	3	5	1	na	na	na
Gas distribution incident investigations. (all networks)	11	4	19	na	na	na	na
Uncontrolled gas leaks investigated. (all networks)	4	10	9	na	na	na	na
Level 3 & 4 minor incidents reported	92	na	na	na	na	na	na
Gas Installation Incident investigation. [LP Gas & NG]	22	14	9	na	na	na	na

Table 7

General Statistical Data 2003 - 09 na = not available or applicable.

11.4 Distribution Networks Accidents and Incidents

11.4.1 Gas Networks Incidents

The director has received quarterly, mandatory incident reporting from Tas Gas Networks Pty Ltd. Incident trends are now being assessed to determine causation and risk control requirements.

Data collected of gas networks mains pipeline accidents and incidents identified loss of containment issues. No injuries to employees or the public have resulted from these incidents.

Incidents involving gas leaks from failed components, third party interference, deliberate third party damage, or design or equipment failure are being monitored for causation and level of emergency.

A continuing small number of 1050kPa gas mains coupling joints have experienced minor leaks. The distributor is investigating the cause of these incidents. The director is continuing

to monitor the engineering assessments to identify the root cause, any remedial or ongoing leakage surveys requirements.

Refer *Table 8*

11.4.2 Infrastructure Construction

The policy of the Director continues to encourage the use of the “Dial Before You Dig” phone 1100 service by all infrastructure owners for contractors undertaking civil excavations in the vicinity of gas mains.

The director and the natural gas distributor have commenced a targeted program with utility owners who work in the vicinity of live gas mains.

Worker competencies, dial before you dig notifications and emergency gas leak management have been targeted. This program will be ongoing in 2009 – 10 with targeted infrastructure owners.

The director is continuing to facilitate Tasmanian Fire Service cooperation in monitoring the management of uncontrolled gas mains emergency response and gas incident fire investigations and notification protocols.

11.4.3 Civil Contractor and Land Owner Education

Civil contractor and landowner education to improve notification to gas infrastructure owners, prior to excavating in proximity to live gas mains continues to be a priority.

This was part of the WST exhibition at a successful 2009 “Agfest” public safety exhibition.

11.4.4 Pipeline Mains and Service Connection inspections

The proportion of WST inspections on existing pipeline main, service connections to installations remains high.

Pipeline construction inspections have not been required this financial year due to a down turn in pipeline construction.

11.4.5 Gas Entity Life Cycle Auditing

Refining of audit models for the life cycle audit of gas networks maintenance management plans and cathodic protection management is continuing.

The director’s first five year review of gas entity steel mains operations due to commence in second quarter 2009 in accordance with the approved safety and operating plan and technical standards has been delayed. This program remains a priority.

Gas Networks Incident Reports

Gas Facility Location	level 4 reported gas escapes (site)	level 3 reported gas escapes (zone)	Level 2 reported gas escapes (district)	Level 1 reported gas escapes (network)	Uncontrolled gas incident Investigated 08/09 (NG)	Installation Incident Investigated 08/09 (NG)	Total Incidents Reported 08/09 (LPG)
Bell Bay	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Burnie	5	0	0	0	1	0	0
Devonport	9	0	0	0	1	0	0
Hobart	59	1	0	0	4	3	4
Launceston	16	1	0	0	1	1	0
Longford	1	0	0	0	1	1	0

Westbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wynyard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	90	2	0	0	10	6	4

Table 8

Note: LPG incidents are site specific and not connected to gas facilities.

Conclusions

I am pleased to advise that the Director of Gas Safety has achieved completion or acceptable progress of the planned outputs for the Gas Act 2000 operational programs:

- Administration programs
- policy development
- gas installations programs
- gas distribution programs
- gas appliance and components certification.

The delivery of these programs has been achieved in parallel with continuing NG, LNG and LPG industry initiatives, emerging technology and major energy generation expansion projects.

Due to the demands of major projects, some delays have again been experienced in the public communications and audit / investigations programs pursuant to the *Gas Act 2000*.

Policy

Proposed and recent amendments to the *Gas Act 2000* will see a partial refocus of resource towards compliance and performance for the storage and use of liquefied gases in the evolving LNG sector.

A comprehensive legislative technical gas safety package for the gas storage industry is drafted and will be discussed with industry stakeholders in 4th quarter 2009. This will be delivered in 2009 -2010 through the *Gas Act 2000* and alignment of the Occupational Licensing Act and Hazardous Substances legislation. These amendments will require development and review of a number of existing gas installation, licensing and certification programs. Coordination of gas programs with new major hazardous facilities and large dangerous goods locations will be required during 2010.

Emerging climate change issues

The political recognition of greenhouse issues and commercial demand for control of costs in energy generation have increased demand for the services of the director office and staff expertise as anticipated.

The Director will monitor national greenhouse policy and commercial developments likely to affect Tasmanian gas supply and appliance industries.

Australian government greenhouse policy has a potential to reduce mainland Australia coal fired electricity generation capacity through the focus on mitigating carbon emissions.

Reduced coal fired electricity generation capacity would increase the demand for natural gas in the south east Australian states having a potential to affect Tasmanian natural gas supply security, especially at peak demand periods.

Emerging technology

Increase use of satellite communications and equipment control technology on specialised appliances will require additional administrative acceptance models. This technology will continue to demand increasing levels of staff commitment and training to deliver preventative and safety programs for appliances wishing to reduce carbon emissions and achieve maximum efficiency.

Demand for new natural gas technology including high pressure supply and the LNG industry will see emerging new gas technology, requiring a further need for gas legislation development, new technical standards for control of inherent risks.

National policy

Council of Australian Government through the Ministerial Council of Energy [MCE] is driving national reforms for harmonised legislation in the areas of;

- gas appliances safety certification standards; and
- worker licensing (gas fitting) through the NLS; and
- energy (pipelines and networks) technical and safety standard harmonisation enhancement plan; and
- new appliance certifying models;

This has been recognised in the WST strategic plan 2010 – 2013. Resource planning will be diverted to meet these challenges.

The WST 2007-2010 three year strategic plan will include development of gas fitter licensing into one WST licensing framework with planned administrative efficiencies, removing current administrative duplicity within the gas industry.

The structure and resources of the GSS unit are being closely monitored with the implementation of the new worker licensing program, the new gas technical safety regulations amendments and the evolution of technology within the gas industry.

New Gas Standards and Safety unit funding and organisational structure models based on gas industry supply growth and the MIB structure are currently under consideration to achieve strategic efficiencies and contemporary program delivery models.



Roy Ormerod
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