

ANNUAL REPORT 2006 - 07

OPERATIONS IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE

GAS ACT 2000

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DIRECTOR OF GAS SAFETY**

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VISION

To provide leadership in gas infrastructure safety and technical standards to ensure the evolving natural gas and LP Gas industry achieves levels of excellence in construction, operations, reliable supply and acceptable public risk.

The Director of Gas Safety will:

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

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, under the direction of the Manager of Gas Safety, Mr Jeff Eastoe and the General Manager of Workplace Standards Tasmania, Mr Roy Ormerod, who was appointed as the Director of Gas Safety pursuant to section 9(i) of the *Gas Act 2000* in January 2007.

The Gas Standards and Safety unit encompasses the Office of the Director of Gas Safety and comprised six "Authorised Officers" and two Administrative Officers.

Administrative functions are centralised in Launceston with policy support based in Hobart and compliance programs capability in each region. The units operational structure and activities are shown in *Figure 1* below.

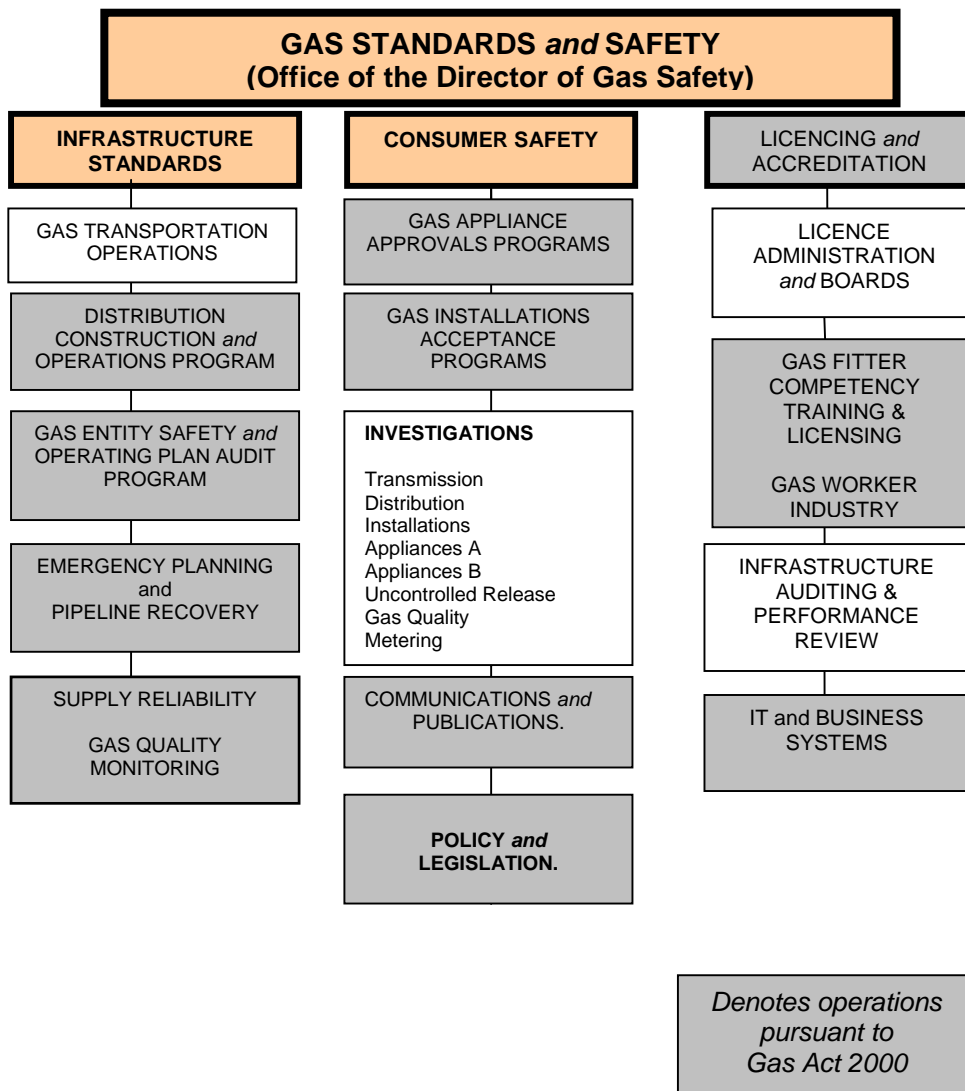


Figure 1

INTRODUCTION

It is satisfying to report that seven natural gas (NG) networks constructed under the stage 2A natural gas agreement now provide a reliable supply of natural gas to consumers through gas facilities operated by Powerco Tasmania Pty Ltd (Powerco).

Natural gas is retailed by licensed gas entities; Option One Pty Ltd and Aurora Energy Pty Ltd to industrial, commercial and retail consumers.

Construction of the network gas mains as part of the stage 2A gas development agreement, between Powerco and the Tasmanian government are now complete.

The installation of gas service connections to supply new consumers is continuing in suburban, commercial and industrial areas, with increasing numbers of service and meter connections being completed monthly. [*Refer Table 2*]

Powerco's increased service connection program has seen an equal increase in demand for the Directors acceptance program for complex gas installations.

Trials of compressed natural gas (CNG) sourced from the Hobart natural gas mains to fuel a private transport operator's fleet is continuing. Gas compression and storage facility safety standards have been approved to enable this project.

Stakeholder consultation has identified a need for specialised licensing of vehicle mechanics who convert vehicles to CNG fuel. Planning of a new competency training package by TAFE and licensing by Workplace Standards Tasmania (WST) has commenced to meet this expectation.

There has been a continuing demand for the Directors acceptance program for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) installations and appliances for both industrial and commercial use. A pleasing outcome of the LPG acceptance program has been an observed improvement in gas safety standards and compliance.

Advice to gas fitters and consumers for the conversion of safety certified appliances from LPG to natural gas has been enhanced through a developing appliance manufacturers data collection facility maintained by the director.

Significantly an increase in the number of uncontrolled gas escape from distribution mains has occurred. Investigations found a primary causation to be third party interference to gas mains by other infrastructure owners or distribution construction contractors. No serious property damaged or personal injury has occurred. [*Refer Table 8*]

The Office of the Director of Gas Safety continues to be a central focus in ensuring safe gas infrastructure standards for the pipelines and installations supplying the Tasmanian community.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

ACTIVITY	FUNCTION	SAFETY OUTCOME
GAS DISTRIBUTION		
Investigate uncontrolled gas incidents.	Identify causation of incidents and review operational standards.	Prevent reoccurrence of uncontrolled gas incidents.
Continue a live gas commissioning program for gas networks.	Ensure safe commissioning for live gas distribution networks.	Maximise intrinsic and operational safety.
Implement a compliance program for Stage 2A gas service installations.	Ensure safe installation of service connections to domestic commercial and industrial premises.	Maintain intrinsic safety and control public risk.
Review internal emergency management response and pipeline recovery protocols.	Ensure timely response to major loss of containment incident or supply emergency.	Reduce public risk and minimise interruption to supply.
GAS FITTER Licensing and GAS WORKER Accreditation		
Collaborate with stakeholders to identify required training and skills development for CNG vehicle gas workers. Investigate non compliant gas installation and resultant safety issues.	Ensure that comprehensive standards for training reflect national competency standards. Issue gas entity, gas fitter and consumer disconnect notices.	Accountable and competent person undertaking work in the vehicle gas industry. Ensure gas licensing and installation integrity standards.
GAS APPLIANCES AND INSTALLATIONS		
Develop “major” type B gas appliance for the approval program.	Ensure robust approval and commissioning verification standards for major appliances.	Minimise the likelihood of unsafe appliances.
Identify and collaborate with training provider, requirements for appliance safety certification training.	Ensure adequacy of gas appliance safety certification.	Improve commercial gas appliance safety standards for the community.
Identify and develop management standards for high pressure gas installations.	Ensure high pressure gas installation quality control and safety standards.	Ensure community safety and continuity of supply to critical infrastructure.
GAS TECHNICAL STANDARDS & WORKING GROUPS		
Review and adopt relevant technical safety standards and codes for gas distribution and gas	Ensure consistent national standards apply to Tasmanian gas industry.	Maximise the intrinsic safety in the gas industry.

ACTIVITY	FUNCTION	SAFETY OUTCOME
appliances including CNG.		
GAS TECHNICAL STANDARDS & WORKING GROUPS		
Develop and implement risk assessment instruments.	Control risk on consumers' gas installation safety.	Maximise gas industry risk control capability.
STAKEHOLDER RELATION		
Member of the Occupational Licensing Act development committee.	Development of contemporary statutory licensing standards.	Ensure accountability and competency arrangements deliver maximum consumer benefits.
Contribute to national gas technical regulator programs and issue management.	Development of uniform national gas industry technical standards.	Harmonise product and legislative outcomes to national standards.
Member of the Gas Industry Working Committee.	Identify and review evolving industry issues.	Resolve current gas issues to provide safe & reliable consumer supply.
COMMUNICATIONS & EDUCATION MANAGEMENT		
Administer a gas specific Inter net site and safety publications.	Facilitate access to gas technical standards and consumer safety information.	Maximise the delivery of industry communications products.
STAFF DEVELOPMENT		
Identify continuous professional development, and training opportunity.	Develop contemporary technical and management procedures.	Maintain currency of directors office, capabilities with gas industry evolution.
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION		
Administer, review and identify opportunity for business management improvement.	Develop improved business management procedures.	Efficient administrative processes for industry stakeholders.
POLICY DEVELOPMENT		
Develop legislation.	Identify and amend anomalies in LPG and NG gas safety legislation.	Enable an adequate regulatory framework for the gas industry.

Table 1

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

1.0 GAS DISTRIBUTION

1.1 Natural Gas Rollout

Natural gas primary distribution facilities are complete and operational at Wynyard, Burnie, Devonport, Westbury, Launceston Longford, Bell Bay and Hobart. The Director has recently approved 1000kPa extensions to networks at Devonport (Wesley Vale) and Bell Bay (Georgetown).

Major industrial, commercial and residential consumers now receive natural gas supplied from the Powerco Tasmania Pty Ltd (Powerco) Stage 2A gas facilities. Gas is available to approximately 40,000 properties in 43 Tasmanian suburbs and towns.

The reticulated networks utilise polyethylene mains constructed to a design model operating at 500kPa.

Powerco's gas service connection program of approximately 240 consumers / calendar month is subject to ongoing WST safety standards inspection and internal Powerco audit.

The Director continues to review remedial work on the gas main from Bridgewater to Newtown. A reduced operating pressure remains.

Details of distribution facilities construction and commissioning locations are detailed in *Table 2* below.

1.2 Pipeline Construction Inspection

Periodic inspection programs of pipeline construction and commissioning have been ongoing by officers to ensure safe construction standards, this program is now decreasing due to reduced pipeline construction activity.

1.3 Incident and Accident Reporting

Incident and accident reporting by the distributor has been ongoing with investigations by authorised officers on a needs basis. There has been an increase in incidents resulting in uncontrolled gas escape.

Investigations have resulted in modifications to contractors operating standards and procedures. *Refer Table 7, pp 16.*

TASMANIAN – LOCATION OF OPERATIONAL GAS DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES

OPERATIONAL GAS FACILITY	SUBURB / TOWN RECEIVING GAS SUPPLY	GAS FACILITY, NEW 1000kPa EXTENSIONS APPROVED 06/07
BURNIE	Brooklyn Downlands Havenview Romaine	Nil
BELL BAY	Bell Bay Industrial Estate	Georgetown
DEVONPORT	City East Devonport West Devonport	Airport, Wesley Vale
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
WESTBURY	Industrial Connection only	Nil
WYNYARD	Wynyard restricted mains access	Nil

Table 2

1.4 Service Laying Technical Standards

An increase in service connections and meter installations has resulted in identified industry skills shortages. The unit has collaborated with TAFE and the distributor to review gas worker training and availability. Additional training needs have been identified.

1.5 Gas Installation Approval, Notifications and Procedures

A review of the distributor's consumer installation "connections process", against the Directors consumer installation "acceptance program for complex gas installations" has improved the efficiency of the connection procedure.

The verification procedure for new service connections to consumer installations has lead to a number of unsafe or non-compliant installations being identified and disconnection orders implemented.

1.6 Emergency Response Planning

Consultation with the Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources, and other gas industry stakeholders has resulted in the introduction of the Tasmanian Gas Emergency Supply Coordination Plan.

This plan defines procedures for stakeholders in cases of distribution gas supply curtailment and/or emergency response planning. The plan coordinates gas industry activity and public communications protocols in response to transmission supply or curtailment issues.

Development is in response to the National Gas Emergency response Protocol, National Gas Emergency Response Advisory Committee and Memorandum of Understanding agreed by the ministerial Council of Energy in October 2005.

1.7 Emergency Coordination

The Director has reviewed documentation and internal planning for WST emergency response protocols, internal and external communications, investigations procedures and pipeline recovery and repair auditing.

2.0 GAS INSTALLATIONS and APPLIANCES

2.1 Installation Safety Standards > 200kPa

A review has commenced on acceptance procedures for gas installations with maximum operating pressures above 200kPa. Independent compliance certification will be introduced at design, manufacture, strength and leak testing and commissioning stages.

Ongoing development of proposed new gas fitter licensing standards pursuant to the Occupational Licensing Act will coordinate licensing requirements with the gas fitter legislative requirements of the Gas Act 2000.

Future assessment of gas fitter competency training is planned.

2.2 Installation Notification and Certification.

The Gas Act 2000 installation notification and certification procedures used by gas fitters to certify work quality for new and modified installation gas fitting work, is working effectively. Refer 1.5 above.

2.3 Gas Appliance Certification Scheme

The Australian Gas Association has provided safety certification services for new non certified individual appliances imported in to Tasmanian.

Progress towards the appointment of “restricted external authorities” to assess existing installed non-approved gas appliances is continuing and dependent upon successful implementation of a competency training package.

Scoping of a training package with TAFE is complete.

Administrative arrangements for certification of appliances are similarly complete. The Director is working in collaboration with TAFE and the Office of Post Compulsory Education and Training to complete training and delivery requirements.

2.4 Major Gas Appliance Acceptance Approvals

A review of specialised acceptance procedures for major type B gas appliances has commenced. Individual certifications by approved persons will be permitted at design, manufacture, strength and leak testing and commissioning stages.

Work certification will be defined in proposed new licensing standards pursuant to the Occupational Licensing Act and will be administered by the Director of Gas Safety pursuant to the Gas Act 2000 type B appliance acceptance program.

2.5 Major Industrial Installations

Major industrial installations and appliances have required significant resourcing.

Work with proponents and their equipment suppliers for the proposed Alinta Energy Pty Ltd (Tamar Valley) Power Station and Gunns Ltd pulp mill has been ongoing.

Detailed approval programs for the proposed high pressure installations are in development.

3.0 GAS RETAILING

3.1 Emergency Gas Curtailment Planning

Implementation of the Tasmanian Gas Supply Emergency Coordination Plan (TGSECP) to manage mainland supply curtailment issues, emergency incidents, industry and public notification protocols with gas retailers has been ongoing. The requirements for retailers are now embedded in the TGSECP. *Reference 1.6, pp 9.*

3.2 Gas Retailer - Preferred Installers

It is pleasing to consistently observe provision of sound gas safety information by retailers and their preferred installers to proposed gas consumers.

4.0 GAS TECHNICAL STANDARDS & WORKING GROUPS

4.1 Technical Standards Development

Development of standards for the Tasmanian gas industry is ongoing. Regular consultation between WST and industry stakeholders, end users, interstate regulators and gas industry organisations is ongoing to ensure currency, relevance and completeness of Tasmanian standards.

Industry and regulatory committees involved in the ongoing development of natural gas programs are included in *Table 3*. Consultation is planned with LP Gas stakeholders on proposed standards for gas storage systems to coordinate legislative requirements.

4.2 Gas Technical Regulators Committee

Membership of this national committee regularly provides Tasmania with current appliance and safety information. A number of matters have resulted in product warnings to the Tasmanian public.

The committee is currently examining a proposal by New Zealand to amend its gas appliance safety certification scheme for natural gas appliances.

COMMITTEE	MEMBER ORGANISATIONS	COMMITTEE PURPOSE
Occupational Licensing	DIER Office of Energy & Planning, Workplace Standards Tasmania (WST) and Tasmanian Municipal Associations.	Development and subsequent implementation of the Occupational Licensing Act.
Gas Industry Working Group.	Office of The Energy Regulator. DIER (Office of Energy, Planning and Conservation), WST, TAFE. Treasury, Dept of Economic development.	Facilitate issue resolution for gas industry and consumer up take. Development of gas policy, codes and standards for the gas industry.
Gas Technical Regulators Committee.	All states and New Zealand gas technical Regulators, Aust LP Gas Association.	Development of national gas safety standards for distribution systems, appliance and components.
Tasmanian Electrolysis Committee	Infrastructure Owners, WST, DIER (Office of Energy & Planning).	A review body aimed at solving problems associated with infrastructure owners corrosion protection systems.

GSS work groups- committee functions

Table 3

5.0 GAS APPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

5.1 Appointment of External Authorities

The Director of Gas Safety has approved SAI Global, as an “external authority” for the class certification of Australian manufactured gas appliances, or imported into Tasmania.

Along with the Australian Gas Association (AGA) appliance class certification scheme, Tasmania has a comprehensive system of gas component standards and gas appliance “class” certification for mass produced equipment.

The AGA has agreed to provide a fee for service, individual safety certification service for new appliances where a declared Australian technical standard is available.

5.2 Appliance and Component Certification Standards

Compliance standards for gas appliances and components are periodically reviewed, declared and gazetted by the Director.

WST provided input into the development of a national performance standard for gas appliance “essential safety” standards to support prescribed Australian standards.

The “essential safety” standard will provide a performance based standard to support prescriptive appliance safety standards for new and unique appliances imported in Tasmania.

Final release of the standard by Standards Australia is expected in 2008.

5.3 Products Withdrawn from Market

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

Information is provided to gasfitters through the Directors web site and gas bulletin.

A public alert and individual notification was issued to all Tasmanian vehicle owners of LPG fuelled vehicles, warning of unsafe LPG tank, “Sidek” pressure relief valves.

5.4 National Gas Appliance Certification Standards Uniformity

The director is continuing work through the national Gas Technical Regulators Committee in meeting the requirements of the Ministerial Council on Energy to implement an Australian and New Zealand uniform model for gas appliance safety certification by August 2008.

Sales of new non certified products imported via local and international web sites is proving difficult for regulators to regulate the safety standard of these products imported into the Australian market.

6.0 GAS INSTALLATIONS

6.1 High Pressure Gas Installations

Resources have been devoted to the development and research of appropriate technical standards for high pressure complex gas installations. Drafting of

standards for design, materials, manufacture, testing and commissioning has commenced.

Completion of the Directors new high pressure gas installations, construction audit program is expected by December 2008.

6.2 Gas Installation Risk Model

A risk assessment model based on AS 4360 Risk assessment, developed for consumer installation risk assessment and threat mitigation has been implemented by the Director on a number of high risk installations with comprehensive risk mitigation outcomes implemented.

7.0 **STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

7.1 Professional Development

Continuous professional development is expected of all authorised officers. Officers have attended intrastate and interstate specialised gas training, education courses and seminars.

Staff training in specialist gas industry needs is ongoing with:

- major and unique combustion appliances standards
- high pressure gas installation standards
- repair and recovery of steel pipelines
- auditing life cycle management of gas infrastructure
- liquefaction of gases

Which have been identified as requiring specialist training to meet expected gas industry growth. A review of the regional program capability and role responsibility has commenced to ensure suitable staff recruitment within an environment of succession planning needs and staff poaching trends.

7.2 Type B Appliance Capability

Ongoing staff training in type B gas appliances, design assessment and combustion engineering has now enabled a southern regional capability and improved efficiency in the type B appliance acceptance program.

7.3 Diploma of Government

WST and TAFE have agreed on a specialised training assessment for gas inspectors. All gas inspection staff are currently in the process of completing the TAFE, Diploma of Government (Inspection) award program to ensure program delivery capability.

8.0 **DISTRIBUTION “GAS WORKER” TRAINING and ACCREDITATION**

There has been continued collaboration with the gas distributor and construction industry to ensure that relevant safety standards are adopted into the national gas industry, training package.

Development of training programs within the nationally recognised Australian Training Framework has involved TAFE, Powerco Tasmania Pty Ltd and stakeholders.

It is expected Gas Distribution, certificate II and III awards will be available for Tasmanian gas workers through TAFE in 2008.

9.0 GAS FITTER TRAINING and ACCREDITATION

9.1 Gasfitter Licensing

In total 241 gas fitters have certificates of competencies for natural gas, gas fitting, issued by the Director of Industry Safety under the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995*. The certification applies to natural gas, consumer installation gas fitting work, Pursuant to the Gas Act 2000. Refer Table 4.

This interim arrangement that will cease when the Occupational Licensing Act 2005, administrative gas regulations are introduced coordinating natural and LPG licensing.

Work on the development of gas fitting regulations pursuant to the Occupational Licensing Act has commenced and is scheduled for completion by June 2008.

Licenses Issued for Gasfitter License Category	04/05	05/06	06/07
Type A gas fitting (natural gas)	28	39	52
Type B restricted gas fitting (natural gas)	23	11	4
Type B unrestricted gas fitting (natural gas)	4	3	5
Examination conducted for type B licenses	na	15	5

Table 4

An administrative program will be required to develop and implement the procedures for Occupational Licensing of gas fitters. This program will impact on Gas Act programs.

9.2 Gas Fitter Examinations

Successful completion of TAFE training packages in Type B appliances enables completion of gasfitter competency examinations conducted through the director's office.

A continuing alliance is maintained with the Victorian Plumbing Industry Commission for the implementation of an electronic examination model.

9.3 Gas Fitting Work, Certification Monitoring

A management database for recording all gas fitting certifications is maintained. Work has commenced on developing interpretative and administrative systems for monitoring the performance of licensed gas fitters.

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

PRODUCT	OUTPUT 2005-06	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 Standards and Safety "Gas Bulletin "	Delivered the 3rd Ed of the "Gas Bulletin" advising of prescriptive gas legislation requirements and appliance safety issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Licensed Gas Fitters Gas Distributors Gas Retailers Gas Stakeholders
Director's guide for emergency response and pipeline recovery planning.	Coordinate response planning and recovery monitoring, staff responsibilities and interdepartmental communications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WST Director Chief Inspector
Directors guide for emergency response investigation and communications log	Coordinate emergency investigation and communications EN 001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of the Director of Gas Safety
Gas Safety and Technical Publications.	SIDEK LPG valve newspaper Safety Alert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LPG fuel motor vehicle owners
	SIDEK LPG valve, individual correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All LPG fuelled registered motor vehicle owners.
	Safety Alert, Decorative Log Fires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gas Fitters Consumers
	Viega, press fit copper systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gasfitters Consumers
	Rinnai, side flue diverters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gasfitters Consumers Building designers
	Iplex, future K pipe systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gasfitters
	Installations approvals and gas fitting notice requirements DOC 006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gas Fitters

	Information Sheet IS-18 – Is the wall behind that domestic cooker safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas Fitters • Building designers • Consumers
	Hot Tapping Guidelines, Gas Installations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas fitters • Consumers • Consultants • Engineers
Industry Seminars	Conducted 3 regional gas fitter education seminars with Powerco. To outline new acceptance, notification and certification procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas fitters

Table 5

11.0 **PROGRAM OUTPUTS**

11.1 **Policy Development and Legislation**

As a result of issues identified by the gas industry working group, a review of the *Gas Act 2000* and the Gas (Safety) Regulations 2002 in conjunction with Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources was undertaken. Primary issues identified include, embedded and isolated networks licensing and technical standards, powers of authorised officers involving LPG gas networks and installations and natural gas installations standards.

A cabinet briefing document has been prepared for proposed amendments.

Resources were allocated to the development of gas regulations and ancillary administrative matters pursuant to the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*. These align legislative requirements with the *Gas Act 2000*.

Consultation periods and stakeholder advice is planned to commence in 2007 regarding specialised requirements for high pressure piping, major Type B appliances and new standards for anticipated liquefied natural gas and compressed natural gas.

11.2 **Business Administration, Office of the Director of Gas Safety**

Operation and maintenance of administrative systems have been ongoing with primary outputs identified in Table 6.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	OUTPUTS	REASON
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.	Plumbing Industry Commission reconciliation.
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.
Communications Management System	Internal deliver of relevant and timely publications.	Identification of, safety, training and educational needs and stakeholder expectations.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	OUTPUTS	REASON
Staff Training Data Base	Relevant and timely training information.	Maintenance of essential technical and contemporary skills and knowledge.
Staff competency standards	Develop relevant gas inspection competency standards.	Ensure essential procedural competency standards.
Monthly Gas Standards & Safety Unit Meetings	Management of business planning.	Issue identification, decision making, planning and review.
Gas distribution commissioning and service program	Deliver regional distribution infrastructure, inspection program.	Control public risk
Gas Installation Acceptance program	Deliver regional installation technical compliance program.	Consumer safety
Gas Appliance Recall Management	Unsafe gas appliance notifications.	Consumer safety.
Gas Appliance Acceptance (type B) program	Deliver regional Type B appliance technical compliance	Consumer safety
Gas Appliance Approval (type A) program	Develop safety approval procedures for appliances and establish national alliances.	Consumer safety
Accident and Incident Investigation process.	Respond to risk to supply and public safety on gas transmission, distribution, installations.	Community safety.
Installation disconnections and reconnection procedures.	Deliver timely disconnection orders.	Control unsafe or non compliant gas installations.

Table 6

11.3 Field Operations Gas Inspectorate Unit

11.3.1 Statistical Information

General statistical information on the field operations is attached. reference Table 7.

11.3.2 Complex Gas Installations Standards

The trend for acceptance of new complex gas installation continued to increase along with the ongoing conversion of LPG installations. It is pleasing to report new work and conversions have a high level of gas fitting work compliance, to current technical safety standards.

11.3.3 Multi Residential Installations

A continuing increase in acceptances of gas installations for prescribed standard installations (multi residential premises) is expected as the natural gas networks now reach into 39 residential suburbs. Additional resource is allocated to ensure safety standards and coordinate multiple gas fitter approvals to gas fitters performing work at the one residential site.

FIELD OPERATIONS (Gas program criteria)	06/07	1/6/05 to 31/5/06	04/05	03/04	02/03
Gas Installations					
<i>Complex</i> Gas Installations Design Accepted.	188	169	113	68	27
<i>Complex</i> Gas Installation Design Modification Accepted	64	34	na	na	na
<i>Complex</i> Gas Installation Field Assessments	211	222	156	114	120
<i>Prescribed Standard</i> gas installation design Accepted.	16	1	na	na	na
<i>Prescribed Standard</i> gas installation design modification accepted.	nil	na	na	na	na
<i>Prescribed Standard</i> gas installation field inspections.	11	na	na	na	na
Standard gas installation disconnection inspections	13	na	na	na	na
Gas Appliances					
Type "B" Appliances Designs accepted.	73	120	83	44	41
Type "B" Appliance Modifications accepted.	14	23	-	-	-
Type "B" field commissioning.	111	141	111	83	167
Type A appliance approval by director	4	na	na	na	na
Gas Fitter Licensing					
Number of Type A and / or Type B certificate of competency/natural gas issued.	59	51	54	12	20
Total Tasmanian certificated natural gas, gasfitters	241	180	112	58	na
Gas Distribution Mains, Services & Installations					
Gas mains construction / commissioning audits.	8	18	147	24	-
Natural gas service installation audit.	1	nil	na	na	na
Natural gas service installation inspections.	232	na	na	na	na
Gas mains construction inspections.	128	342	na	na	na
Gas transmission receiving station construction audits.	nil	1	90	28	na
Gas transmission receiving station inspections.	1	6	na	na	na
Gas Disconnection Orders to a gas entity.	5	1	na	na	na
Gas distribution incident investigations. (all networks)	19	na	na	na	na
Uncontrolled gas leaks investigated. (all networks)	9	na	na	na	na
Gas Installation Incident investigation. [LPG & NG]	9	na	na	na	na

Table 7

General Statistical Data 2003/04

na = not available or applicable.

11.4 Distribution Networks Accidents and Incidents

11.4.1 Gas Networks Incidents

A number of gas networks mains pipeline accidents and incidents have resulted in both a loss of containment and gas supply to consumers. No injuries to employees or the public have resulted from these incidents.

Property damage was restricted to one natural gas installation fire resulting in building and infrastructure damage. Distributor response crews have responded to control this small number of uncontrolled gas release incidents.

Incidents involving gas leaks from failed components, third party interference, deliberate third party damage, failure to observe procedures, damaged to electrical infrastructure and uncontrolled release of gas when testing of infrastructure have been investigated.

Refer *Table 8*

11.4.2 Infrastructure Construction Records

Incidents with potentially high risk have occurred to mains construction crews as a result of inaccurate infrastructure owner's (electrical, water, telecommunications etc) historical as built records.

The policy of the Director is to encourage the use of the Dial Before You Dig 1100 service by all infrastructure owners and contractors undertaking civil excavations in the vicinity of gas mains.

11.4.3 Civil Contractor Education

Civil contractor education to improve gas infrastructure identification, prior to excavating in proximity to live gas mains continues to be a priority for future public safety and education programs.

11.4.4 Mains and Service Connections

WST inspection activities on pipeline construction have reduced with the high pressure distribution mains construction program reducing significantly.

The reduced mains inspection program has refocused on the inspection of gas service connections to consumer properties, in commercial business and industrial districts. Building type and occupancy rates contribute to a higher public risk.

11.4.5 Gas Entity Life Cycle Auditing

Development of audit models for the life cycle audit of gas networks safety and operating plans has commenced

This will enable the director's first five year review of gas entity operations next financial year.

Gas Facility Location	Natural Gas Uncontrolled gas incident Investigated 06/07	Natural Gas Facility Incident Investigated 06/07 (NG)	Installation Incident Investigated 06/07 (NG)	Total LPG Incidents Reported 06/07
Bell Bay	-	1	1	Na.
Burnie	-	1	-	Na.
Devonport	2	4	-	Na.
Hobart	9	5	5	Na.
Launceston	1	1	3	Na.
Longford	-	-	-	Na.
Westbury	-	-	-	Na.
Wynyard	-	-	-	Na.
Total	12	11	9	10

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 substantially achieved completion of the planned outputs and maintained the administrative and educational programs pursuant to the *Gas Act 2000*.

This has been achieved in parallel with continuing natural and LPG industry initiatives and expansion.

Ongoing staff development and training is delivering enhanced gas inspectorate capability for regional programs. Efforts will be ongoing, incorporating contemporary role modification with planned increased efficiency and capability and recognition of role responsibilities.

With an anticipated continuing expansion of the natural gas industry and gas technology there is a need to continue legislative review and develop new policy and administrative programs. This will ensure the evolving natural gas industry and gas industry technological initiatives continue to develop in parallel with acceptable technical safety standards and minimal public risk.

Proposed amendments to the *Gas Act 2000* will see a partial refocus of resource towards compliance and performance within the storage and use of gaseous liquids in the LPG, LNG and CNG sectors.

A comprehensive legislative and administration capability for WST in the gas storage industry is planned so as to create equal standards within all phases of the gas industry. This is planned for delivery through *Gas Act 2000* amendments and alignment of the Occupational Licensing Act and Hazardous Substances legislative requirements.

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

Strategic planning and review of current programs has commenced in line with the anticipated reduction in construction activity, increased supply and planned legislative monitoring programs.

Roy Ormerod
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