

Welcome to Gas Industry Co's *News Bulletin*, a periodic advisory of new and current consultations, workstream developments, publications and presentations.

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Update on Gas Transmission

On 24 August the Gas Industry Co co-hosted a workshop with First Gas to discuss the process that will be used to develop a single code for access to and operation of the gas transmission network in New Zealand. Here we provide a further update on some key dates and questions raised by stakeholders at that workshop.

At the workshop, Gas Industry Co and First Gas presented a proposed process to develop a new gas transmission code, which included Gas Industry Co:

- a) providing oversight of that process to ensure that the new transmission code is tested against the objectives of the Gas Act and the GPS; and
- b) ensuring that a regulatory back-stop is available if parties are unable to reach agreement on the new transmission code.

Gas Industry and First Gas have developed further details in relation to:

- Regulatory consultation process
- One-on-one meetings with individual stakeholders
- Timeline for identifying and considering options, including workshops

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Invitation to next Transmission Options Workshop – 20 September

Gas Industry Co will hold the next workshop on Tuesday 20 September 2016 in Wellington to discuss the consultation paper, *Single Code Options Paper – Part 1*. This will be issued shortly and will propose a regulatory objective; provide background information including a summary of the Panel of Expert Advisers work; and describe how Gas Industry Co's process will interface with the First Gas process.

EVENT DETAILS

Venue	Gas Industry Co, Level 8, The Todd Building, 95 Customhouse Quay, Wellington
Date	Tuesday, 20 September 2016
Time	1.00 to 3.00pm (the workshop will extend if more time is required)
RSVP	Estelle Tolmay (by 5.00pm, 19 September 2016) If you are unable to attend, but wish to participate by conference call, please register here .

Update on Gas Quality

As also discussed at the 24 August workshop, there are a number of outstanding matters related to gas quality. Gas Industry Co and First Gas have agreed that First Gas will continue work begun by Maui Development Limited aimed at addressing certain issues identified in the gas quality work-stream.

Gas Industry Co will continue to work with First Gas on this matter, and will publish an update on the status of the gas quality work-stream before the end of the year.

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Other items

Consumer switching numbers available

The Gas Registry Statistics recording gas consumer switching numbers for August 2016 are now available. There were 5,890 customer switches completed during the month. This was 1,624 more switches in August than in July 2016 and 1,287 more switches than August 2015.

Around 19.7% of gas consumers have switched in the past 12 months – this is one of the highest rates of retail utility switching worldwide. Gas customers can switch retailers for many reasons, but the high level of activity in the gas retail market suggests that customers find changing retailer easy and can put pressure on retailers to offer competitive terms and pricing. Switching rates have been over 18% for more than two years.

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