



Gas Focus 3

Minister to Launch WA Gas Industry Forum

Following on from the significant reforms which occurred within Western Australia's energy industry on 1st January 1995 a need was identified within the gas industry to establish an industry representative group to bring all industry participants including suppliers, manufacturers, installers, consultants and regulators closer together to more collectively further the interests of the industry.

The initial challenge was to obtain industry agreement to these proposals. Discussions were held with a wide range of industry groups and there was unanimous agreement to form an industry representative body.

This culminated in the formation of THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GAS INDUSTRY FORUM whose principal aim is to provide gas industry stakeholders with a consultative body to discuss and progress industry related matters that can improve gas industry standards, work process and image, as well as gas safety generally.

The Forum will be an unincorporated body consisting of seven industry representatives as follows:

- Office of Energy - *Regulatory Authority*
- Gas Industry Association - *Appliance Manufacturers, Retailers, Consultants*
- Master Plumbers Association - *Gas Fitting Contractors*
- Housing Industry Association - *Housing and Building Industry Groups*
- Master Builders Association
- AlintaGas - *Suppliers*
- Kleenheat Gas

The Forum will:

- Act as a gas industry consultative body.
- Identify and where necessary investigate initiatives to improve installation and appliance servicing efficiencies in key industry segments.
- Establish and maintain cooperation between industry stakeholders to achieve common goals.
- Review and promote work performance and service delivery standards.
- Ensure, in conjunction with stakeholders, an environment conducive to continuous improvements in standards and processes.

- Ensure the interests of stakeholders are represented in matters pertaining to regulations, policy, standards and processes.
- Ensure all relevant information and source of expertise is disseminated to stakeholders.

Key Objectives of the Forum include:

- Enhancing, promoting and improving gas industry standards and gas safety generally.
- Raising the competencies and skills of gas industry operatives.
- Providing industry participants with information on related work standards and proposed improvements.

The forum's role and objectives will be promoted to the gas industry as a whole via industry publications. It is hoped that the Minister for Energy, Colin Barnett, will be available to officially launch the forum.

Safety Brochures

The Office of Energy has produced two new gas safety brochures:

- LP Gas Safety
- Using Gas Safely in Caravans and Tents

Copies of these brochures are available throughout the State, from LP gas suppliers, caravan parks and appliance retailers. The brochures may also be obtained by contacting the Office of Energy by telephoning 09 422 5200.