

GasNZ Forum 2026 – Gas Matters

Te Papa, Wellington

16–18 September 2026

Principal Sponsor



Programme

Wednesday 16 September

4:30pm REGISTRATION OPENS

A GasNZ Forum registration desk will be outside the Soundings Theatre, Level 2, Te Papa – which is the venue for the New Zealand Energy Future Debate

5:30pm THE NEW ZEALAND ENERGY FUTURE DEBATE

Soundings Theatre, Level 2, Te Papa

Please be seated by 5:15pm: the debate is being livestreamed by *Stuff* and will start at 5:30pm sharp.

Just seven weeks out from Election 2026, our political leaders take the stage to debate the best energy policies for New Zealand's future.



Hon. Dr Megan Woods MP
Spokesperson for Energy
& Resources,
Labour Party



Hon. Simeon Brown
Minister of Energy,
National Party



Simon Court MP
Spokesperson for Energy
& Resources,
Act Party



Scott Willis MP
Spokesperson for Energy
& Resources,
Green Party



Qiulae Wong
Leader,
Opportunity Party



Martin Gummer
Candidate
NZ First Party



Debate Moderator: Lloyd Burr
Head of News, Stuff

Brought to you by:



6:45pm WELCOME RECEPTION

to After the debate, join your GasNZ colleagues and members of the BusinessNZ Energy Council for a shared
8:00pm welcome reception, with drinks and nibbles in the Oceania Room.

Delegates are free to make their own dinner plans.



Wednesday 16 September 2026

Thursday 17 September

Day One Sponsored by  **verbrec**
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OCEANIA ROOM

New Zealand's Approach to Its Energy Future

8:00am **REGISTRATION OPENS** – Oceania Room, Level 3, Te Papa

Coffee Cart Sponsor:



8:30am **WELCOME**

Welcome: [Don Elers – GasNZ Chair](#)

Principal Sponsor's welcome: [Cory Spence, Director, Linde - New Zealand & Pacific Islands](#)

Ministerial Address: [Hon. Simeon Brown – Minister of Energy](#)

8:55am **KEYNOTE: THE ENERGY BENEATH THE ECONOMY – SYSTEMS THINKING FOR NEW ZEALAND'S ENERGY**

New Zealand stands at a critical juncture. As domestic natural gas production declines and our energy system evolves, we face a fundamental question: what kind of economy can our future energy system sustain?

Energy is more than a market commodity. It is the biophysical foundation of the economy, shaping our industrial capability, resilience, export potential and future prosperity.

This keynote explores why systems thinking is essential to understanding the relationship between energy and economic development, and why the choices New Zealand makes today will determine not only how we power our economy, but what kind of economy we are able to build.

[Larry Blair – LBC Project Management & Consultancy, and author of New Zealand Energy Substack](#)

9:15am **PANEL DISCUSSION – PLANNING A NEW ZEALAND ENERGY FUTURE**

Our panel explores the theme of our keynote, considering what an energy strategy for New Zealand would need to do, how we might get there, and what else would be needed to take control of our energy future.

[Paul Goodeve – CEO, Clarus Group](#)

[Larry Blair – LBC Project Management & Consultancy](#)

[Ramu Naidoo – Head of Security of Supply & Forecasting, Transpower](#)

Facilitator: [Jen Nolan – Director, At Large](#)

10:00am **MORNING TEA, NETWORKING AND TRADE DISPLAYS**

Break sponsored by



Gas Markets Update

10:30am **NATURAL GAS, LNG, AND BIOMETHANE**

Downside surprises in natural gas production forecasts no longer seem surprising. Biomethane is here, and LNG looks like it might be coming.

Alan Young of Enerlytica examines what we know about the current supply and demand situation for these key gases, likely inflection points over coming months, and long-term market drivers.

[Alan Young – Director, Enerlytica](#)

11:15am **PANEL DISCUSSION – PERSPECTIVES ON OUR NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION FUTURE**

Estimates of New Zealand's proved, probable, and possible natural gas resources have changed dramatically over the past couple of years, triggering significant shifts in New Zealand's energy markets. Hear directly

from the market participants on their view of likely domestic production of both natural gas and biomethane resources over coming years.

Dave Darby – Engagement & Regulatory Affairs, OMV New Zealand
Justin Post – Chief Operating Officer, New Zealand Energy Corporation
Matt Verry – Commercial Lead, Wholesale and Trading, Nova
Don Elers – General Manager Gas, Powerco
Facilitator: Andy Bedford – General Manager, Ecogas

12:00pm LPG SUPPLY AND MARKET

LPG demand is high and customer numbers are strong. What does the current market balance look like? Will LPG supply be affected by domestic gas field declines? Liquigas, New Zealand's main LPG logistics provider, and Elgas/Linde, a major LPG wholesaler, examine the current and future LPG markets.

Christo Janse van Rensburg – CEO, Liquigas
Cory Spence – Director, Linde - New Zealand & Pacific Islands

12:25pm INDUSTRIAL GAS – AN ESSENTIAL ENABLER OF NEW ZEALAND'S ENERGY FUTURE

Dig into the important, but under-appreciated role that industrial gases play in New Zealand's overall energy mix.

Aneesh Shinde – Business Manager – Engineering, Linde

12:45pm LUNCH

Coffee Cart Sponsor:



Managing the Changing Role of Gas

1:30pm AN LNG IMPORT FACILITY FOR NEW ZEALAND

The Government has promised an LNG import facility for New Zealand. Technically and commercially, what would be involved? What is feasible? What will the regulatory regime be? What might the impact be on our energy markets? Alan Young will update us on what is known, and what remains unknown.

Alan Young – Director, Enerlytica

1:50pm PANEL DISCUSSION – IF NOT LNG, THEN WHAT?

The proposal to import LNG is surrounded by conflicting studies. Proponents describe it as prudent insurance; detractors decry it as foolish and irresponsible. Our panel of experts seek to distil fact from fiction, and legitimate uncertainty from misinformation.

Alan Young – Director, Enerlytica
John Pagani – Pagani Associates
David Reeve – Director, Sapere
Facilitator: Karen Boyes – Executive Director, Major Electricity Users' Group

2:30pm FUTURE CHALLENGES AS NATURAL GAS DECLINES: Gas Industry Company focus areas

An update on the Gas Industry Company's work programme, which has three elements focussing on natural gas decline and its impacts:

- **Future of Gas Infrastructure:** cost recovery for natural gas transmission and distribution infrastructure
Tim Kerr – Principal Adviser
- **Future Gas Availability:** impacts for commercial and industrial gas users
Chris Kilby – Principal Adviser
- **Evolving Gas Governance Arrangements for Future Fuels**
Andrew Walker – Principal Adviser

3:05pm **AFTERNOON TEA, NETWORKING AND TRADE DISPLAYS**

Break sponsored by



3:35pm **THE DIVERSE CONTRIBUTION OF GAS TO OUR ECONOMY – PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL DISCUSSION**

Businesses discuss their current gas use and their strategies to manage their future energy needs

- **Fonterra:** Jack Ballagh – Senior Energy Engineer
- **Evonik Peroxide:** Brennan Chappell – Site Manager
- **NZ Association of Bakers:** John Cockburn – President
- **Tāwhaki:** John Holt – Chief Executive (Acting)

Facilitator: Mo Ehsan – National Sales Manager, Linde New Zealand

4:35pm **DAY ONE ROUND-UP**

Jeffrey Clarke – Chief Executive, GasNZ

4:45pm **CLOSE OF DAY ONE**

GASNZ FORUM DINNER – *Icon*, Level 2, Te Papa

Catch up with your colleagues, enjoy good food and wine, hear an inspiring speaker, and relax at our GasNZ Forum dinner, held in Te Papa's *Icon* venue, with sweeping harbour views.

Note: The GasNZ Forum Dinner is **separately ticketed**. If you wish to attend and did not purchase a ticket with your Forum registration, please contact gasnzforum@avenues.co.nz.



6:00pm **Doors open**

6:30pm **Dinner commences**

Our guest speaker is **Bob Weston**, Director - Future Business at Entec, a New Zealand provider of products and services for the installation and maintenance of electrical equipment, gas detection, and rotating equipment.

Bob will share the story of how he grew Entec's revenue 10-fold over 12 years, and the process of industry, product and service diversification that Entec has been through. Hear some of the personal and professional highs and lows he experienced over this time, and his key takeaways from the journey.

Dinner Speaker Sponsor: **UHLENBERG HAULAGE LTD.**



10:00pm **Dinner concludes**

OCEANIA ROOM

Running on New Zealand-Made Energy

Coffee Cart Sponsor:



8:30am WELCOME

Welcome: [Don Elers](#) – GasNZ Chair

Gold Sponsors' welcome: [Paul Goodeve](#), CEO, Clarus Group
[Jason Franklin](#), CEO, Powerco

8:45am ELECTRIFYING HOMES AND VEHICLES

Mike Casey, the ubiquitous head of Rewiring Aotearoa, presents the “why” and the “how” of Rewiring Aotearoa’s recent report: *Electric Homes and Vehicles*: a vision of a transformed economy, where all residential gas users transition onto rooftop solar, battery, and electric vehicles.

[Mike Casey](#) – Chief Executive, Rewiring Aotearoa

9:15am PANEL DISCUSSION – SHOULD NEW ZEALAND BE ENCOURAGING RESIDENTIAL GAS USERS TO SWITCH?

What would a mass conversion of residential gas users to solar electricity mean for our overall energy infrastructure, and consumer costs? Should New Zealand be actively encouraging some consumers to “go solar”?

[Mike Casey](#) – Chief Executive, Rewiring Aotearoa

[Larry Blair](#) – LBC Project Management & Consultancy and author of New Zealand Energy substack

[Andreas Heuser](#) – Partner, Heuser | Whittington

Facilitator: [Ben Gerritsen](#) – General Manager Customer & Regulatory, Clarus

10:00am MORNING TEA, NETWORKING AND TRADE DISPLAYS

Break sponsored by



From 10:30am, programme streams are being held simultaneously in both the Oceania Room (see below) and the Soundings Theatre (see page 7)

Biogas and Biomethane

10:30am EXPERIENCE WITH BIOGAS AND BIOGAS UPGRADING – PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL DISCUSSION

- The Ecogas Story: the pros and cons of upgrading: [Andy Bedford](#) – General Manager, Ecogas
- The Aussie experience: biogas vs biomethane: [Richard Bartlett](#), BioGrid
- Biomethane: Biogas upgrading for pipeline injection: [Tim Ussher](#) – Future Fuels Engineer, Clarus
- Landfills: Why they upgrade or not. What could change this? [Reuben Cairns-Morrison](#), General Manager Strategy & Growth, EnviroNZ

Facilitator: [Erik Vandenberg](#) – General Manager - Growth & Energy Transition, Verbrec

12:15pm IMPLEMENTING THE BIOMETHANE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

GasNZ’s Biomethane Strategy and Action Plan defines clear, achievable targets for New Zealand’s biomethane production, and sets out the actions for policy and other interventions to achieve those targets.

[Chase Hancock](#) – Principal Policy Advisor, GasNZ

12:30pm LUNCH

Coffee Cart Sponsor:



- 1:15pm **POWERCO NETWORK INITIATIVES**
- Network Vulnerability Assessment:** Hear about Powerco's assessment of customer connections and trends. Are some gas networks at risk or vulnerable? How should those risks be addressed?
- [Caitlin Tromop van Dalen – Network Reliability Engineer – Gas, Powerco](#)
- SELMA leak detection vehicle:** Efficiencies and benefits of deploying mobile laser technology for methane leak detection on the Powerco network.
- [Xavier Hey – Program & Process Performance Manager, Powerco](#)
- 1:45pm **GAS USERS AND THE FUTURE OF GAS**
- The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) presents a demand-side perspective of what the gas sector should be thinking about: who, where and what are the challenges and opportunities for gas users in the future?
- [Paul Bull – Manager, Regional & Sector Partnerships, Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority](#)
- 2:00pm **LET YOUR WORKERS SURPRISE YOU**
- Sometimes, it requires real commitment to help workers to overcome challenges and grow. But the rewards and outcomes can be well worth the investment. Stuart Price, Chair of GasNZ's Gas Training Committee, shares some workplace experiences.
- [Stuart Price – Business Development Manager, Omexom](#)
- 2:20pm **THE ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SKILLS BOARD**
- Sheree will provide an update on the Energy and Infrastructure Industry Skills Board, highlighting new vocational education initiatives, workforce development priorities, and opportunities to strengthen capability across New Zealand's energy industry.
- [Sheree Long – Energy & Extractives Portfolio Lead, Energy and Infrastructure Skills Board](#)
- 2:35pm **THE BUCK STOPS WITH YOU**
- Some health and safety obligations cannot be delegated by directors and officers. What does this mean in your workplace? If you aren't familiar with how these obligations were clarified in the *Ports of Auckland* decision, you need to pay attention to this session.
- Also covered are recent amendments to the HSWA that are of particular relevance to both contractors, and firms engaging contractors.
- [Stacey Shortall – Partner, MinterEllison](#)
- 3:00pm **AFTERNOON TEA, NETWORKING AND TRADE DISPLAYS** Break sponsored by 
- 3:30pm **INSIGHTS INTO CONSUMERS AND GAS**
- Clarus has conducted detailed consumer sentiment surveys for six years. What do Kiwis really think about gas, and how has this evolved?
- [Richelle Ashman – Marketing & Communications Manager, Clarus](#)
- 3:50pm **WRAP UP AND FAREWELL**
- [Jeffrey Clarke – Chief Executive, GasNZ](#)
- 4:00pm **CLOSE OF GASNZ FORUM**

SOUNDINGS THEATRE

8:00am GASNZ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

The 2026 GasNZ AGM is open to members only. Materials will be separately sent to principal member contacts, as usual.

8:30am – **No sessions in Soundings Theatre.**

10:30am **Please refer to Oceania Room programme**

10:00am MORNING TEA, NETWORKING AND TRADE DISPLAYS

Break sponsored by



WorkSafe Regulatory Update

10:30am WORKSAFE'S OPERATIONAL APPROACH TO HIGH-HAZARD FACILITIES

An overview of WorkSafe's risk-based inspection approach in relation to LPG installations, including the practical application of the legislation. Including the HSWA legislation amendments which allow for the development of industry led ACOP's as a "safe harbour" and an alternative means to comply with the legislation.

[Karen Davidson – Chief Inspector – High Hazards, WorkSafe](#)

LPG – 222 kg Installations

11:00am INSTALLATION COMPLIANCE AND BEST PRACTICE – 222KG INSTALLATIONS – PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL DISCUSSION

GasNZ is preparing to release a new Code of Practice for single- and multi-cylinder 222 kg LPG installations. This session introduces the new Code of Practice and explores practical compliance and installation considerations.

- The new Code of Practice for 222 kg LPG installations [Lukas Erasmus – LPG Asset Manager, Genesis](#)
- Practical experiences, insights and concerns relating to 222 kg installations
- A gasfitter's perspective [Sam Currie – Manager, Gas Engineering Services](#)
- Tales from a compliance certifier: be careful out there! [Kevin Towart – LPG Safety South](#)
- The regulator's perspective [Karen Davidson – Chief Inspector – High Hazards, WorkSafe](#)

Facilitator: [Peter Gilbert – Former Exec Director of LPGA and GANZ](#)

12:30pm LUNCH

Coffee Cart Sponsor:



Fleet & transport innovations and efficiency

1:15pm LPG FLEET AND TRANSPORT INNOVATIONS – PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL DISCUSSION

- Genesis' EROAD journey: delivering material improvements in driver performance, safety behaviours, and incident reduction [Greg Price – LPG Logistics Manager, Genesis](#)
- EROAD showcases their product roadmap: how innovation and AI are shaping fleet safety and driver performance [Matt Buckle – NZ Enterprise Sales Manager, EROAD](#)
- Lowes shares insights into the design and manufacture of their 5-tonne LPG bobtails, including the latest safety and operational innovations [Andrew Cowan – Engineering and Technical Sales Manager, Lowes Industries](#)

Facilitator: [Neil Crookes – General Manager LPG Operations, Genesis](#)

2:35pm **BUSINESS FUEL EFFICIENCY: CUTTING COSTS AND BUILDING RESILIENCE**
How can businesses get more from every litre of fuel they use? EECA will explore practical opportunities to improve fuel efficiency across sites and vehicle fleets, helping businesses reduce operating costs, and strengthen resilience. EECA will also share a view on making the most of existing infrastructure and new fuel solutions to support gas users.
[Richard Briggs – GM of Delivery and Partnerships, Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority](#)

3:00pm **AFTERNOON TEA, NETWORKING AND TRADE DISPLAYS**

Break sponsored by



3:30pm **No sessions in Soundings Theatre.**
onwards **Please refer to Oceania Room programme**