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Guy Barnett, Minister for Energy

Gas Industry reforms to reduce costs and improve safety

The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to keeping natural gas flowing freely and at fair prices for industrial, commercial and residential customers.

Reforms to cut red tape and further streamline administration of Tasmania's gas supply industry have been introduced into State Parliament.

The reforms, which replace the Gas Act 2000 and Gas Pipelines Act 2000, will ensure modern and uniform regulation across gas infrastructure, gas installations and gas appliances. This will lead to cost savings and improved safety in the industry.

Separate licensing and regulatory arrangements that previously applied to gas transmission licenses and gas distribution licenses have been harmonised.

This measure simplifies the administrative arrangements for both industry and government, which means reduced costs.

Other measures include removal of unwarranted regulatory burden on the Tasmanian gas fitting industry.

The reforms also create a head of power for the responsible Minister to provide for an obligation to offer supply for customers at premises connected to the gas network, where a customer has been refused supply due to existing bad debt or their previous credit rating.