

# Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate

Service delivery snapshot 2016–17

# Gas safety is everyone's responsibility

Our vision is that every gas industry worker gets home safely at the end of every shift, and every gas user has a safe gas experience.

Our mission is to regulate the conduct of petroleum activities in order to contribute to the development of a safe, efficient and viable petroleum and fuel gas industry.

Across Queensland, we:

- manage gas work licences and authorisations
- conduct inspections and audits
- manage complaints
- respond to incidents and emergencies 24/7
- conduct investigations and enforcement actions
- continuously improve standards and practices
- share knowledge to improve safety.

Collaboration and communication with the community, industry, peak bodies and government agencies will continue to underpin how we conduct our mission.

In 2016–17, the Queensland Government provided us with a new enforcement power—the penalty infringement notice. This notice has provided a cost-effective option we can apply to discourage unlawful behaviour, rather than prosecute through the courts. We've used these enforcement powers rationally and sensibly—issuing 18 notices related to unlicensed gas work, the installation of unapproved gas devices and failure to comply with safety requirements.

Over the coming 12 months, I look forward to engaging with all stakeholders across Queensland. We'll actively conduct our core business of safety inspections and audits, but we'll also boost our engagement efforts to meet with industry leaders, supervisors and workers, and advise and assist to ensure that every worker gets home safely.



Bill Date

Chief Inspector  
Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate

## Working together to improve safety

The 2016–17 financial year saw the establishment of two stakeholder engagement committees to help inform our regulatory functions and services. The committees are made up of key inspectorate and industry representatives, with one committee focusing on operating plant safety and the other focusing on gas work and devices safety.

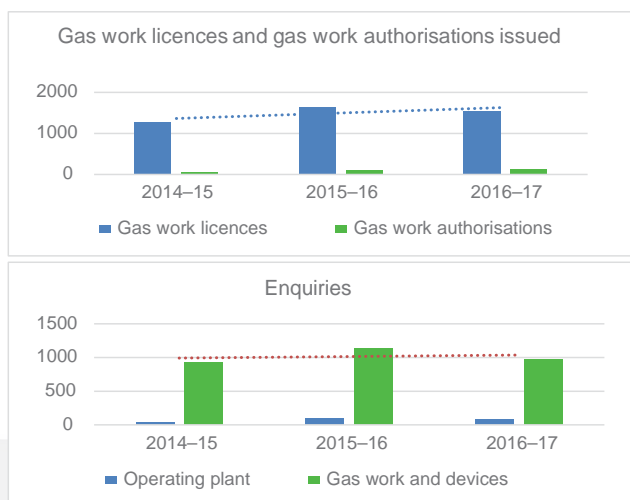
The inspectorate also represents Queensland on the national Gas Technical Regulators' Committee, which aims to improve gas safety across Australia. In addition to these broader engagement activities, we coordinate numerous guidelines and represent Queensland on a number of Australian Standards committees, ensuring gas safety issues are addressed and standards and guidance are continuously improved.

Throughout 2016–17, we commenced legislative amendments to clarify requirements, reduce red tape and support better safety outcomes. Our collaboration with industry stakeholders was instrumental in reviewing and publishing key documents, including:

- *Code of practice for the construction and abandonment of coal seam gas wells and associated bores in Queensland*
- *Code of practice for leak management, detection and reporting for petroleum production facilities*
- *Guideline for activities using fuel gas to produce theatrical or other special effects*
- *Guideline for managing gas work at complex installations*
- *Guideline for the use of unodourised gas.*

# Delivering regulatory services

The inspectorate's Licensing and Authorisation Unit issued 1553 licences and 128 authorisations throughout the year, with 78 applications refused. This is in addition to issuing 374 vehicle and vessel certificate books, 2191 gas system compliance books, 297 defect notices books and 4946 bundles of compliance plates. Industry is embracing online forms, with 90% of gas work licence applications now made online.

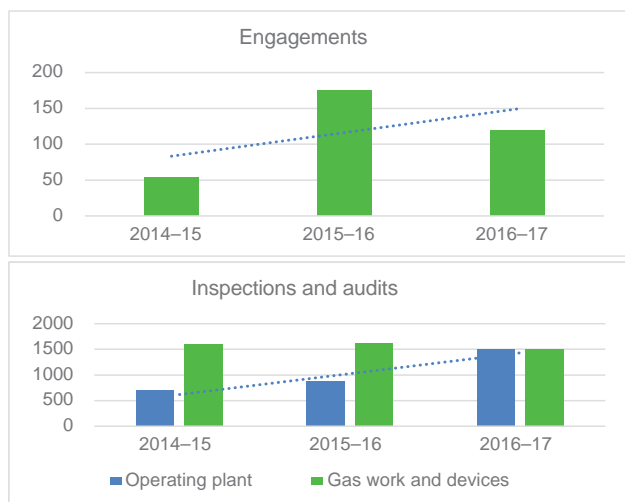


## Stakeholder engagement

Throughout the year, the inspectorate undertook a range of individual engagement activities with key stakeholders across industry to discuss operational and technical issues. This included activities with operators to improve safety management, with TAFE Queensland to improve gas fitter knowledge and with associations such as Caravanning Queensland. In addition to this, we answered 977 enquiries from industry and the public in relation to petroleum and gas safety matters.

## Compliance assurance

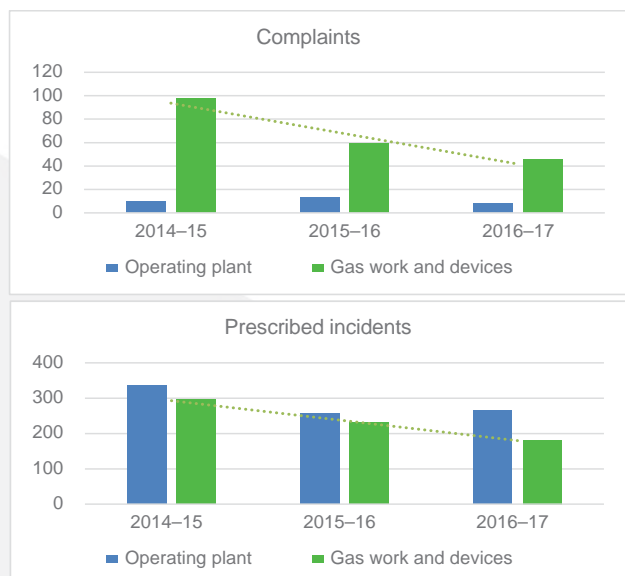
We continued our annual Compliance Assurance Program throughout the year. It is a proactive plan of inspections and audits that aligns with our business operational plan for each financial year. The program is risk-based and uses historical data, compliance trends and emerging issues to determine the program of work. In 2016-17, the program aimed to undertake 1945 proactive inspections and 58 audits of operating plant.



The inspectorate conducted 2948 inspections across Queensland, including 1440 at operating plant and 1498 relating to gas work and devices. We also carried out 70 audits across the various operating plant categories. The inspection and audit services undertaken included both proactive work under the program and reactive work in response to complaints and incidents. Looking at combined inspections and audits, we conducted 527 more this year than in 2015-16.

## Complaints

During the year, the inspectorate received 8 complaints relating to operating plant and 46 in relation to gas work and devices—with the majority of the latter related to unlicensed or noncompliant gas work. We also received 264 reports of prescribed incidents at operating plant and 182 reports of incidents relating to gas work and devices.



Regulatory activities across the year resulted in:

- 1 dangerous situation direction
- 215 compliance directions
- 18 penalty infringement notices (most relating to unlicensed and noncompliant gas work)
- a number of referrals for prosecution (currently in progress).



# Program of activities 2017–18

In the coming year, the inspectorate will revise its risk assessment and significantly refocus its Compliance Assurance Program. We will aim to achieve greater focus on higher risk issues relating to safety at operating plant, with 935 inspections and 81 audits planned. We will be undertaking a reduced, but more targeted, program in relation to gas work and devices, with 644 inspections focused significantly on gas work licence and gas work authorisation holders.

During 2017–18, the inspectorate will drive a number of major projects aimed at enhancing safety, streamlining operations and improving governance, including:

- improving safety of well design and drilling operations
- expanding online forms
- reviewing gas work fees and charges
- enhancing outcomes of proactive regulatory activities
- modernising inspectorate activities in the field.

The remake of the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* and associated Regulation continue, and consultation with industry is ongoing. The aim is to deliver substantial legislative changes, proposed to take effect from 1 July 2018 if approved.


## Contact us

### Information and enquiries

 [business.qld.gov.au](http://business.qld.gov.au)

 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

### Report a prescribed incident or emergency

 Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate  
Hotline: 1300 910 933



**Queensland  
Government**