

16 February 2016

Ms Lynelle Collins

Director Mediation Services and Compliance
NSW Fair Trading
Level 11, 10-14 Smith Street
Parramatta NSW 2150
Via email – GTRC Secretariat: jtreseder@esv.vic.gov.au

REVIEW OF SAFENESS OF TYPE 21 PORTABLE GAS CONNECTIONS

Dear Lynelle

I am writing to you in your role as chair of the Gas Technical Regulators Committee (GTRC) concerning the need to review the safeness of type 21 portable gas connections.

First, I wish to advise that the LPG industry regards the safety of its customers and the community as paramount. Reflecting this, on 11 February 2016 members of the Gas Energy Australia (GEA) Board of Directors met with Mr Paul Bonsak, Executive Manager Gas Installation & Appliance Safety with EnergySafe Victoria (ESV) and member of the GTRC, to discuss concerns about the contribution of type 21 cylinder connections to injuries resulting from fires associated with portable gas recreational appliances such as barbecues. The GEA Board members present greatly appreciated Paul's open and constructive approach and advised him that they share the concerns of the GTRC and ESV about this issue.

Most importantly, the discussion reinforced the LPG industry's resolve to find ways to improve the safety of consumers when operating portable gas appliances. In response, it is assembling a working group drawn from GEA members which will investigate and report on issues associated with type 21 connections and identify options to improve consumer safety. The magnitude of this project is not to be underestimated and the first task assigned to the working group will be to confirm the scope of the project and outline the preparation of a work plan and timeline of activities.

While the working group will report directly to the GEA Board, we would like to keep the GTRC and other key stakeholders informed of our progress in addressing this critical issue. Consequently, I would greatly appreciate the opportunity for a GEA representative to address the next GTRC meeting which I understand will be in May or June this year.

Thank you for your consideration. GEA and its members look forward to working collaboratively with the GTRC to improve the safeness of portable gas appliances.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Griffiths", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Griffiths
Chief Executive Officer