

# Gas and Electricity Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2006

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Western Australia

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Gas and Electricity Safety Legislation  
Amendment Bill 2006**

**A Bill for**

**An Act to amend —**

- **the *Electricity Act 1945*;**
- **the *Energy Coordination Act 1994*; and**
- **the *Gas Standards Act 1972*.**

The Parliament of Western Australia enacts as follows:

## **Part 1 — Preliminary**

**1. Short title**

This is the *Gas and Electricity Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2006*.

5 **2. Commencement**

- (1) This Act comes into operation on a day fixed by proclamation.
- (2) Different days may be fixed under subsection (1) for different provisions.

**Part 2 — *Electricity Act 1945* amended**

**3. The Act amended by this Part**

The amendments in this Part are to the *Electricity Act 1945*\*.

[\* *Reprint 6 as at 16 December 2005.*]

5           *For subsequent amendments see Act No. 18 of 2005.*]

**4. Part III repealed**

Part III is repealed.

**5. Section 32 amended**

Section 32(1)(s) is amended as follows:

- 10           (a) by deleting “\$5 000” and inserting instead —  
                  “ \$50 000 ”;
- (b) by deleting “\$20 000.” and inserting instead —  
                  “ \$250 000. ”.

**6. Section 33B amended**

15           Section 33B(6)(d) is amended as follows:

- (a) by deleting “\$5 000” and inserting instead —  
                  “ \$50 000 ”;
- (b) by deleting “\$20 000” and inserting instead —  
                  “ \$250 000 ”.

20           **7. Section 33D amended**

Section 33D is amended as follows:

- (a) by deleting “\$5 000” and inserting instead —  
                  “ \$50 000 ”;
- 25           (b) by deleting “\$20 000.” and inserting instead —  
                  “ \$250 000. ”.

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**8. Section 33F amended**

Section 33F is amended as follows:

- (a) by deleting “\$5 000” and inserting instead —  
“ \$50 000 ”;
- 5 (b) by deleting “\$20 000.” and inserting instead —  
“ \$250 000. ”.

**9. Section 52 amended**

Section 52 is amended as follows:

- 10 (a) by deleting “\$5 000” and inserting instead —  
“ \$50 000 ”;
- (b) by deleting “\$20 000.” and inserting instead —  
“ \$250 000. ”.

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**Part 3 — Energy Coordination Act 1994 amended**

**10. The Act amended by this Part**

The amendments in this Part are to the *Energy Coordination Act 1994*\*.

5 [\* Reprint 2 as at 10 September 2004.  
For subsequent amendments see *Western Australian  
Legislation Information Tables for 2005, Table 1, p. 144.*]

**11. Section 3 amended**

10 (1) Section 3 is amended by inserting in the appropriate  
alphabetical positions —

“

**“commercial information”** means —

- 15 (a) any knowledge or information relating to  
technology, marketing or energy used in a  
person’s business and that might reasonably  
be expected adversely to affect the business  
or interests of that person if disclosed to  
another person; or
- (b) other information that has commercial value;

20 **“component”** means a component of a distribution  
system, distribution works, transmission works or  
service apparatus;

**“distribution works”** has the same meaning as it has  
in the *Electricity Act 1945* section 5(1);

25 **“network operator”** means —

- (a) in relation to gas —
- 30 (i) the holder of a distribution licence for  
a distribution system and includes a  
person who operates the system on  
behalf of that holder; and

**s. 12**

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5 (ii) a person granted an exemption under section 11H from holding a distribution licence for a distribution system and includes a person who operates the system on behalf of that person;

or

10 (b) in relation to electricity —  
(i) a network operator as defined in the *Electricity Act 1945* section 5(1); and  
(ii) any other person lawfully operating transmission or distribution works;

“**supply authority**” has the meaning given to that term in the *Electricity Act 1945* section 5(1);

15 “**transmission works**” has the meaning given to that term in the *Electricity Act 1945* section 5(1).

”.

(2) Section 3 is amended by deleting the full stop after the definition of “trading licence” and inserting a semicolon instead.

20 **12. Section 7 amended**

Section 7 is amended as follows:

(a) after paragraph (a)(i) by inserting the following subparagraph —

“

25 (ia) this Act; and

”.

(b) after paragraph (a)(i) by inserting —

“ and ”.



**13. Section 12 amended**

Section 12(2) is repealed and the following subsection is inserted instead —

“

- 5 (2) The Director may designate persons to be inspectors for the purposes of —
- (a) this Act; or
  - (b) the *Electricity Act 1945*; or
  - (c) the *Gas Standards Act 1972*,
- 10 or all or any of those Acts.

”.

**14. Section 14 amended**

Section 14 is amended as follows:

- 15 (a) in paragraph (a) by deleting “apparatus or installation used for any of those purposes is or may be situated;” and inserting instead —

“

20 installation, component or activity used or undertaken for any of those purposes is or may be situated or undertaken;

”;

- (b) in paragraph (c) by deleting “apparatus or installation used or intended to be used” and inserting instead —

“

25 installation, component or activity used or undertaken or intended to be used or undertaken

”;

- 30 (c) in paragraph (d)(iii) by deleting “apparatus or installation” and inserting instead —

“ installation, component or activity ”.

**s. 15**

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**15. Sections 18A to 18C inserted**

After section 18 the following sections are inserted —

“

**18A. Orders as to dangerous things in relation to electricity or gas**

5

(1) If an inspector is of the opinion, having inspected any thing in relation to electricity or gas which that inspector is authorised to inspect, that —

10

- (a) the thing is dangerous; or
- (b) the thing has been rendered dangerous, having regard to its actual or possible use, by —
  - (i) the introduction of any other object into the proximity of that thing; or
  - (ii) the use of any other object in conjunction with or in relation to that thing; or
  - (iii) any other circumstance,

15

the inspector may make an order under subsection (2).

20

(2) An inspector may by order, in writing, specifying the reason for the opinion referred to in subsection (1), require —

25

- (a) the person who has apparently caused the danger; or
- (b) the person who has apparent control of the thing; or
- (c) the person who is responsible under a written law for the control of the thing,

30

to take immediate steps to remove or mitigate the danger in such manner, if any, as the order may specify.

- 5 (3) If the inspector is of the further opinion that any immediate steps taken or to be taken under an order made under subsection (2) may not remove the danger, or are in the nature of a temporary expedient, the inspector may make an order under subsection (4).
- 10 (4) The inspector may by order, in writing, specifying the reason for the opinion referred to in subsection (3), require —
- (a) the person having apparent control of the thing; or
  - (b) the person who is responsible under a written law for the control of the thing; or
  - 15 (c) the person having apparent control of an object, specified in the order, which may render the thing dangerous; or
  - (d) the person who is responsible for the circumstances, specified in the order, which may render the thing dangerous,
- 20 to —
- (e) modify, dismantle or remove the thing giving rise to the danger; or
  - (f) deal with or remove a specified object the introduction of which may render the thing dangerous; or
  - 25 (g) deal with or remove the specified circumstances which may render that thing dangerous,
- 30 within a period of not less than 28 days specified in the order and in such manner, if any, as the order may specify.

**18B. Orders as to unsafe work practices in relation to electricity or gas**

- 5
- (1) If an inspector is of the opinion on reasonable grounds that any work practice related to safety used in, or in relation to, the construction, repair, maintenance or operation of any thing the inspector is authorised to inspect may give rise to any danger from electricity or gas or does not conform with any Act to which the inspector's powers extend the inspector may make an order under subsection (2).
- 10
- (2) The inspector may, by order in writing, require the person appearing to be responsible for the carrying out of the work practice —
- 15
- (a) to modify that work practice, in such manner, if any, as the order may specify, within a period of not less than 28 days specified in the order; and
- 20
- (b) meanwhile, to carry out the work practice in accordance with any condition, restriction or limitation specified in the order until the modification required under paragraph (a) has taken effect,
- or may prohibit the carrying out of the work practice absolutely.
- 25
- (3) An order under subsection (2) is to specify the work practice in question and the reason why it is unsafe or does not comply with the relevant Act.

**18C. Orders as to distribution systems or distribution or transmission works**

- 30
- (1) If an inspector is of the opinion that a component that the inspector is authorised to inspect —
- (a) does not conform with any Act to which his or her powers extend; or

(b) is unsafe,

the inspector may make an order under subsection (2).

- 5
- (2) The inspector may, by order in writing served on the network operator of the distribution system or distribution or transmission works, require work to be done, or other measures to be taken, by the network operator within the period specified in the order to ensure that each component specified in the order conforms with the relevant Act or is rendered safe.
- 10
- (3) In making an order under subsection (2), the inspector may extend the scope and operation of the order to other components that are similar to a component that has been inspected under section 14 either generally or in relation to a specified type of component.
- 15
- (4) Subsection (3) does not apply unless the Director approves of the terms of the order before it is made.
- (5) Before the Director approves the terms of the order, the Director must —
- 20
- (a) consult with the relevant network operator; and
- (b) consider the effect of the terms of the order on work or other measures being undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by the network operator on the distribution system or distribution or transmission works.
- 25
- (6) An order under subsection (3) is not to be served on the network operator unless —
- 30
- (a) the inspector has given the network operator an opportunity to assess the extent to which the other components of the distribution system or distribution or transmission works conform with the relevant Act or need to be rendered safe; and

**s. 15**

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- 5
- (b) the inspector has made a reasonable effort to consult with the network operator about means of ensuring that the component or type of component conforms with the relevant Act or is rendered safe; and
- (c) the inspector and the network operator cannot within a reasonable time reach an agreement in writing on —
- 10
- (i) the work to be done, or other measures to be taken, to ensure that the component or type of component conforms with the relevant Act or is rendered safe; and
- (ii) the time within which the work is to be done or the measures are to be taken.
- 15
- (7) If the inspector and the network operator reach an agreement of the kind described in subsection (6)(c), the agreement does not take effect until it is approved by the Director.
- 20
- (8) If the Director approves an agreement between an inspector and the network operator on —
- (a) the work to be done, or other measures to be taken, to ensure that the component or type of component conforms with the relevant Act or is rendered safe; and
- 25
- (b) the time within which the work is to be done or the measures are to be taken,
- the network operator must carry out that work or take those measures in the agreed time or within such further time as the Director may specify.
- 30
- (9) If a network operator does not carry out the work or take the measures referred to in subsection (8) in the agreed time or within such further time as the Director may specify, the inspector may, by order in writing

served on the network operator, require the work to be done or the measures taken, by the network operator within the period specified in the order.

”.

5 **16. Section 19 amended**

Section 19(1) is amended by inserting after “section 18” —  
“ , 18A(2) or (4) or 18B(2) ”.

**17. Sections 19A and 19B inserted**

After section 19 the following sections are inserted —

10 “

**19A. Review of certain orders of inspectors on the application of a network operator**

- 15 (1) A network operator who is aggrieved by an order under section 18A(2) or (4), 18B(2), or 18C(2), or an order extended by an inspector under section 18C(3) may apply in writing to the Director for a review of the decision.
- 20 (2) The application is to be made within 14 days after the applicant receives notice of the order or within such further period as the Director in a particular case allows.
- (3) The Director must give the applicant a reasonable opportunity to make submissions in relation to the application.
- 25 (4) An application stays the operation of an order until the review is completed unless the Director determines on the ground of safety that the operation of the order is not affected by the application.
- 30 (5) The Director, after considering submissions (if any) made under subsection (3), may determine the application by —
- (a) confirming the order; or

**s. 17**

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(b) varying the order; or

(c) reversing the order.

5

(6) The Director must give the applicant written notice of his or her determination and the reasons for the determination.

(7) Subject to subsection (8), the Director may publicise his or her determination and any submission made under subsection (3) in such manner as the Director thinks fit.

10

(8) If —

(a) a submission contains a statement that information provided in and identified in the submission is commercial information relating to the applicant or another person; and

15

(b) the Director is satisfied that the information is commercial information relating to the applicant or another person,

20

the Director is not to publicise the determination or submission in such a manner as to disclose that information unless the Director is of the opinion that the disclosure of the information would not be unduly harmful to the legitimate business interests of the applicant or the other person, as the case may be.

25

**19B. Review of determinations of Director in relation to orders by inspectors against a network operator**

(1) In this section —

“**decision**” means —

(a) a determination of the Director under section 19A(5); or

30

(b) a refusal of the Director to approve an agreement reached under section 18C(6).



- 5
- (2) A network operator aggrieved by a decision may —
- (a) if a question of law is involved, apply to the State Administrative Tribunal for a review of the decision; or
  - (b) in any other case, appeal in the prescribed manner to a technical review panel appointed under the regulations.
- 10
- (3) On an appeal made under subsection (2)(b) the technical review panel may confirm, reverse or vary the decision and the decision of the technical review panel is final.
- 15
- (4) If an application for review or an appeal has been made under subsection (2) in relation to a decision, the State Administrative Tribunal or the technical review panel, as the case may be —
- (a) may suspend the operation of the decision until the determination of the review or appeal; and
  - (b) may revoke any suspension under paragraph (a).
- 20
- (5) A decision is not to be suspended under subsection (4)(a) if failure to comply with the decision would endanger the safety of a person or result in a risk of damage to property.
- 25
- (6) Subject to subsections (7) and (8), the Director may publicise —
- (a) any submission made to the technical review panel by a party to an appeal; and
  - (b) the technical review panel's decision on an appeal,
- 30
- in such manner as the Director thinks fit and, for that purpose, the panel is to make submissions made to it and its decision available to the Director.

**s. 18**

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- (7) Before the Director publicises a submission or decision containing commercial information relating to the appellant or another party to the appeal, the Director must consult with the appellant or the other party.
- 5 (8) If a submission or a decision contains commercial information, the Director may publicise the submission or decision in such a manner as the Director thinks fit so as to avoid the disclosure of commercial information relating to the appellant or the other party.
- 10 (9) If the technical review panel confirms a decision under subsection (3), the appellant is liable to pay the reasonable costs of the review.
- 15 (10) Any costs payable by the appellant under subsection (9) are recoverable by the Director in a court of competent jurisdiction as a debt due to the State.

”.

**18. Section 20 amended**

- (1) Section 20(1) is amended as follows:
- 20 (a) by deleting “\$5 000.” and inserting instead —  
“ \$50 000. ”;
- (b) by deleting “\$20 000.” and inserting instead —  
“ \$250 000. ”.
- (2) Section 20(2) is amended as follows:
- 25 (a) by deleting “\$5 000.” and inserting instead —  
“ \$50 000. ”;
- (b) by deleting “\$20 000.” and inserting instead —  
“ \$250 000. ”.

(3) Section 20(3) is amended as follows:

(a) by deleting “\$5 000.” and inserting instead —

“ \$50 000. ”;

(b) by deleting “\$20 000.” and inserting instead —

“ \$250 000. ”.

5

(4) Section 20(4) is amended as follows:

(a) by inserting after “section 18” —

“ , 18A, 18B, or 18C ”;

(b) by deleting “\$5 000.” and inserting instead —

“ \$50 000. ”;

10

(c) by deleting “\$20 000.” and inserting instead —

“ \$250 000. ”.

**19. Sections 24B and 24C inserted**

After section 24A the following sections are inserted —

15

“

**24B. Disclosure of information for promotion of safety and compliance purposes**

(1) Without limiting section 24(1)(b) but subject to subsection (2), information obtained in the course of a duty relating to inspection for compliance or safety purposes may be recorded, disclosed and used by, or with the approval of, the Director for the purposes of —

20

(a) increasing public awareness of any matter to do with safety related to the use of energy; and

25

(b) increasing levels of compliance with the *Electricity Act 1945* and the *Gas Standards Act 1972*.

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(2) The Director is not to record, disclose or use information, or approve of information being recorded, disclosed or used for a purpose described in subsection (1)(a) or (b) unless —

- 5 (a) in the case of commercial information or information that is confidential, the Director has consulted any person he or she believes may be affected by the recording, disclosure or use; and
- 10 (b) in any case, the Director is of the opinion that the public benefit from the recording, disclosure or use will outweigh any detriment that may be caused to any person, and that there is no other way to achieve the purposes
- 15 described in subsection (1)(a) and (b).

**24C. Gas supply emergency plans**

- (1) The holder of a pipeline licence under the *Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969* to convey gaseous petroleum to a distribution system or a network operator must, if the regulations so require, have a supply system emergency management plan (an “**emergency plan**”).
- 20
- (2) Without limiting section 26(1), the regulations may provide for —
- 25 (a) the preparation and content of emergency plans; and
- (b) the submission of emergency plans for assessment and review by the Director; and
- (c) how emergency plans are to have effect and be complied with; and
- 30 (d) the exemption of persons from the requirement to have an emergency plan if the person has an emergency plan under another written law specified in the regulations.

”.

**20. Section 26 amended**

After section 26(2) the following subsection is inserted —

“

(2a) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the regulations may —

5

(a) provide for the convening of a technical review panel of independent professional engineers; and

10

(b) provide for the procedure to be followed on a review by a technical review panel and the period of time within which a review is to be completed; and

15

(c) provide for the payment of remuneration to members of a technical review panel.

”.

**Part 4 — Gas Standards Act 1972 amended**

**21. The Act amended by this Part**

The amendments in this Part are to the *Gas Standards Act 1972*\*.

5 [\* Reprinted as at 7 July 2000.  
For subsequent amendments see *Western Australian  
Legislation Information Tables for 2005, Table 1, p. 189.*]

**22. Section 4 amended**

Section 4 is amended as follows:

10 (a) by inserting in the appropriate alphabetical positions —  
“

“**commercial information**” means —

- 15 (a) any knowledge or information relating to  
technology, marketing or energy used in a  
person’s business and that might reasonably  
be expected adversely to affect the business  
or interests of that person if disclosed to  
another person; or  
(b) other information that has commercial value;

20 “**Type A gas appliance**” means a gas appliance of a  
prescribed class or type;

25 “**Type B gas appliance**” means a gas appliance that  
has a maximum hourly input rate exceeding  
10 megajoules that is neither a Type A gas  
appliance nor a gas-fuelled engine that —

- (a) is mounted in or on any vehicle, craft or  
portable appliance; and  
(b) is supplied by fuel from a cylinder or tank  
mounted on or in the vehicle, craft or  
30 portable appliance;

”;

(b) by deleting the definition of “section”.

**23. Section 8 amended**

(1) Section 8(1) is amended by deleting “\$5 000.” and inserting instead —  
“ \$250 000. ”.

5 (2) Section 8(6) is amended as follows:

(a) by deleting “\$4 000” and inserting instead —  
“ \$40 000 ”;

(b) by deleting “\$10 000.” and inserting instead —  
“ \$250 000. ”.

10 (3) Section 8(8) is amended as follows:

(a) by deleting “\$2 000” and inserting instead —  
“ \$20 000 ”;

(b) by deleting “\$5 000.” and inserting instead —  
“ \$250 000. ”.

15 **24. Section 10 amended**

Section 10(4) is amended by deleting “\$5 000.” and inserting instead —  
“ \$250 000. ”.

**25. Section 12 repealed**

20 Section 12 is repealed.

**26. Section 13 replaced**

Section 13 is repealed and the following section is inserted instead —

“

25 **13. Consumers’ installations**

(1) If an undertaker or a pipeline licensee does not have an Inspection Policy Statement and Plan approved by the

Director under section 13J, the undertaker or pipeline licensee —

- 5
- (a) may commence to supply gas to a newly installed consumer gas installation; or
  - (b) supply gas to a consumer gas installation that has been altered by the installation of a Type B gas appliance,

10 if, and only if, the installation has been inspected by an inspector and complies with the requirements, if any, prescribed in respect of that installation.

Penalty: \$250 000.

- 15
- (2) If an undertaker or a pipeline licensee has an Inspection Policy Statement and Plan approved by the Director under section 13J, the undertaker or pipeline licensee may commence to supply gas to a consumer gas installation if, and only if, the installation has been inspected in accordance with that plan and complies with the requirements, if any, prescribed in respect of that installation.

20 Penalty: \$250 000.

- (3) In proceedings for an offence against subsection (2) it is a defence for the accused to show that an inspection was carried out after the gas was supplied to the consumer's gas installation under section 13K(2).

- 25
- (4) If, on an inspection under subsection (1), the inspector makes an order under section 18(2)(a) of the *Energy Coordination Act 1994* or issues a notice under this Act, the undertaker or pipeline licensee must send a copy of the order or notice to the Director within
- 30 28 days of the completion of the inspection.

Penalty: \$100 000.

- (5) If an accident involving gas occurs at an installation referred to in subsection (1), the undertaker or pipeline



licensee who supplies gas to the installation must give the Director a report, in a form approved by the Director, on the accident within 3 days of the accident.

Penalty: \$100 000.

5

”.

**27. Section 13D replaced**

Section 13D is repealed and the following section is inserted instead —

“

10

**13D. Approval of gas appliances**

- (1) A person shall not sell, hire, advertise for sale or install a Type A gas appliance unless the appliance —
- (a) is a gas appliance that is approved by the Director or is of a class or type of gas appliance that is approved by the Director; and
  - (b) is marked, stamped or labelled in the manner approved by the Director.

15

Penalty: \$250 000.

- (2) A consumer shall not use a Type B gas appliance unless the appliance —

20

- (a) has been approved by the Director; and
- (b) is marked, stamped or labelled in the manner approved by the Director.

Penalty: \$250 000.

25

- (3) The Director may by instrument in writing delegate to an inspector the power to give approval for the purposes of subsection (1)(a) or (2)(a).

”.

**s. 28**

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**28. Section 13E amended**

(1) Section 13E(1) is amended by inserting after “gas appliance” —  
“ or class or type of gas appliance ”.

(2) After section 13E(3) the following subsection is inserted —

5

“

(3a) The Director may refuse to approve of an application in respect of —

(a) a Type A gas appliance; or

(b) a class or type of Type A gas appliance; or

10

(c) a Type B gas appliance; or

(d) a class or type of Type B gas appliance,

if the Director is satisfied that the appliance or class or type of appliance does not comply with —

15

(e) a standard or requirement specified by the Director by notice published in the *Gazette*; or

(f) a prescribed standard or requirement.

”.

(3) Section 13E(7) is amended by deleting “\$2 000 or imprisonment for 6 months or both.” and inserting instead —

20

“ \$250 000. ”.

**29. Section 13F amended**

Section 13F(3) is amended by deleting “\$2 000 or imprisonment for 6 months or both.” and inserting instead —

“ \$50 000. ”.

25

**30. Section 13G amended**

(1) Section 13G(1) is amended by deleting “gas appliances or”.

(2) Section 13G(2) is amended by deleting “any gas appliance or”.

**31. Section 13H amended**

Section 13H(4) is amended by deleting “\$2 000 or imprisonment for 6 months or both.” and inserting instead —  
“ \$250 000. ”.

5 **32. Sections 13I to 13N inserted**

After section 13H the following sections are inserted —

“

**13I. Guidelines for gasfitting work**

(1) In this section —

10 “**gasfitting work**” means an operation, or a work or a process on or in relation to a gas installation, whether of an undertaker, a pipeline licensee or a consumer.

15 (2) The Director may from time to time formulate and publish guidelines that are not mandatory for safe practices and technical standards in relation to gasfitting work.

20 (3) Before completing the formulation of guidelines the Director must consult interested groups and persons in relation to the proposed guidelines to such an extent as the Director considers appropriate.

(4) Guidelines under subsection (2) may specify —

25 (a) standards to be observed, practices and procedures to be followed, and measures to be taken with respect to gasfitting work; or

(b) practices and procedures to be followed, and measures to be taken, to promote the safety of the public and persons engaged in gasfitting work.

- 5 (5) Guidelines under subsection (2) may incorporate or adopt guidelines, standards, or codes of practice made, formulated, published or issued under any law of another State or the Commonwealth, or by Standards Australia, the Australian Gas Association or any other body with such variations and modifications, if any, as the Director specifies.

**13J. Inspection Policy Statement and Plan**

- 10 (1) An undertaker or pipeline licensee may prepare and submit an Inspection Policy Statement and Plan (the “**Plan**”) to the Director for the purpose of —
- (a) ensuring the safety of a consumer’s gas installations and gas appliances; and
  - 15 (b) monitoring the work of those who carry out any operation, work or process of the nature of gasfitting on the gas installation of a consumer supplied with gas (“**gasfitters**”) from the undertaker or pipeline licensee’s distribution system, cylinders, tanks, gas plant or pipeline.
- 20 (2) The Plan is to —
- (a) relate to work on all types of consumers’ gas installations supplied with gas, whether new or by way of alteration or addition; and
  - 25 (b) provide for —
    - (i) measures to prevent or provide protection from fire, explosion, and asphyxiation; and
    - 30 (ii) the investigation of incidents of fire, explosion, or asphyxiation, including incidents related to gas appliances connected (whether or not permanently) to consumers’ gas installations, which may have been associated with gas

supplied by the undertaker or pipeline licensee;

and

- 5 (c) set out a system of inspection to monitor —
- (i) compliance by gasfitters with written laws applicable to gasfitting on a consumer's gas installation; and
  - (ii) the safety of a consumer's gas installation and gas appliances supplied with gas.
- 10
- (3) A system of inspection referred to in subsection (2)(c) must comply with such guidelines as are issued by the Director from time to time setting out the technical, investigative, reporting, administrative, and other requirements with which the system is to comply.
- 15
- (4) Within 20 working days after the submission of a Plan under subsection (1) or a revised Plan under section 13K(4)(b)(ii), the Director is to make a determination in respect of the Plan or revised Plan —
- 20 (a) requiring further particulars to be supplied in relation to any matter, or that other matters specified by the Director be addressed, in a further submission; or
- (b) granting approval, or granting approval subject to any condition imposed relevant to the compliance by the undertaker or pipeline licensee with the matters referred to in subsection (1); or
- 25
- (c) rejecting the submission, wholly or in part, and requiring a further submission; or
- 30
- (d) rejecting the submission,

and is to notify the undertaker or pipeline licensee in writing of the determination.

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- (5) If the Director does not make a determination under subsection (4) within 20 working days, the Director is to be taken to have approved the Plan or revised Plan.
- (6) If a Plan is approved, the Director may specify a period not exceeding 2 years during which the system of inspection is to operate.
- 10
- (7) An approved Plan, the approval of which has not been withdrawn by the Director, is to be made available for public inspection at the offices of the Director with any modifications that the Director considers necessary, after consultation with relevant persons, to protect commercial information.

**13K. Inspections under the Plan**

- 15
- (1) Whether or not any inspection required to be carried out under a Plan approved under section 13J(4)(b) (the “**approved plan**”) is carried out at particular premises, and if it is carried out the nature and extent of it, is a matter within the discretion of an inspector unless —
- 20
- (a) the approved plan provides that an inspector is not to have a discretion as to whether or not an inspection is carried out or if it is carried out the nature and extent of the inspection; or
- (b) a written law otherwise specifically requires; or
- 25
- (c) the Director or a responsible officer of the undertaker or pipeline licensee otherwise directs, if the approved plan provides for such a direction to be given.
- (2) Despite section 13 and subsection (1), an approved plan may provide for some or all inspections to be
- 30
- carried out —
- (a) after the installation has, or appliances have, been permanently supplied with gas; or

- (b) by way of the examination only of a sample of the work of gasfitters,

subject to the prior approval of the Director being obtained and to any condition, restriction or limitation imposed by the Director.

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- (3) If —

- (a) in good faith, an inspector decides not to carry out an inspection; or

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- (b) in good faith, an inspector decides to carry out an inspection of a particular nature or to a particular extent; or

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- (c) the undertaker or pipeline licensee, or the system of inspection established in accordance with the approved plan by the undertaker or pipeline licensee, does not require that an inspection be carried out; or

- (d) the approval of the Director has been given to an inspection not being carried out,

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in any particular case or in relation to any class of case, the inspector, the undertaker or pipeline licensee, the Director or the State, as the case may be, is not liable, in civil or criminal proceedings, for any injury or damage arising from failure to carry out an inspection.

25

- (4) The Director may at any time audit and assess the inspection practices of an undertaker or pipeline licensee for conformity with the approved plan and the adequacy of the system of inspection and may by order in writing —

30

- (a) require the modification of any inspection practice of that undertaker or pipeline licensee if it is found by the Director not to conform with the approved plan; or

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- 5
- (b) require the gas undertaker or pipeline licensee —
- (i) to review those practices, or such of those practices as are specified in the order; and
- 10
- (ii) if in any respect the system of inspection set out in the approved plan is found to be inadequate to establish and maintain an effective system of inspection for the purposes referred to in section 13J(1), to submit a revised plan, within such time as is specified in the order; or
- (c) withdraw approval of the Plan,
- 15
- and the undertaker or pipeline licensee must forthwith comply with requirements of the order.
- (5) The Director may exercise the powers conferred by subsection (4)(a), (b) and (c) at any time so far as that may be necessary in relation to any particular accident, or to any incident or other matter affecting the safety of
- 20
- a consumer's gas installation.
- (6) An undertaker or pipeline licensee that has an approved plan and fails to comply with a requirement of —
- (a) this section; or
- (b) the plan including any condition to which the
- 25
- granting of the approved plan was subject, commits an offence.
- Penalty: \$250 000.

**13L. Director's guidelines**

- 30
- (1) Before completing the formulation of guidelines referred to in section 13J(3) the Director must consult



relevant persons in relation to the proposed guidelines to such an extent as the Director considers appropriate.

- 5
- (2) Guidelines may specify policies or standards to be observed, methods, practices and procedures to be followed, and measures to be taken with respect to inspections.
- 10
- (3) Guidelines under section 13J(3) may incorporate or adopt guidelines, standards or codes of practice made, formulated, published or issued under any law of another State or the Commonwealth, or by Standards Australia, the Australian Gas Association or any other body with such variations and modifications, if any, as the Director specifies.

**13M. Review of certain decisions of the Director**

- 15
- (1) An undertaker or pipeline licensee aggrieved by a determination of the Director under section 13J(4) may apply in writing to the Director for a review of the determination.
- 20
- (2) The application is to be made within 14 days after the applicant receives a notification of the determination or within such further period as the Director in a particular case allows.
- 25
- (3) The Director must give the applicant a reasonable opportunity to make submissions in relation to the application.
- (4) The Director, after considering submissions (if any) made under subsection (3), may determine the application by —
- 30
- (a) confirming the determination; or
- (b) varying the determination; or

- (c) cancelling the determination and making a new determination under section 13J(4), which determination is not subject to review under this section.

- 5 (5) The Director must give the applicant written notice of his or her determination.

**13N. Review of determinations of Director under section 13M**

- 10 (1) Any person aggrieved by a determination of the Director under section 13M(4) may —
- 15 (a) if a question of law is involved, apply to the State Administrative Tribunal for a review of the decision; or
  - (b) in any other case, appeal in the prescribed manner to a technical review panel appointed under the regulations.
- (2) If a determination is sent back to the Director under section 29(3)(c)(ii) of the *State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004* for reconsideration —
- 20 (a) the Director is to make a new determination under section 13J(4) in accordance with any directions or recommendations of the State Administrative Tribunal within 20 working days of the day on which the Director receives notice of the Tribunal's decision; and
  - 25 (b) the new determination is not subject to review under section 13M; and
  - (c) section 29(4) of the *State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004* does not apply in relation to the new determination.
- 30 (3) On an appeal made under subsection (1)(b) the technical review panel may confirm, cancel or vary the

determination and the decision of the technical review panel is final.

- 5 (4) If the technical review panel cancels a determination, the Director may make a new determination in accordance with the panel's decision under section 13J(4) within 20 working days of the day on which the Director receives notice of the panel's decision, which determination is not subject to review under section 13M.
- 10 (5) If an application for review or an appeal has been made under subsection (1) in relation to a determination, the State Administrative Tribunal or the technical review panel, as the case may be, may suspend the operation or effect of the determination until the determination of the review or appeal.
- 15 (6) If the technical review panel confirms a determination under subsection (3), the appellant is liable to pay the reasonable costs of the review.
- 20 (7) Any costs payable by the appellant under subsection (6) are recoverable by the Director in a court of competent jurisdiction as a debt due to the State.

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**33. Section 14 amended**

25 Section 14(1) is amended by deleting “of \$2 000.” and inserting instead —

“

, in the case of an individual, of \$50 000 and, in the case of a body corporate, of \$250 000.

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**34. Section 15 amended**

Section 15(2) is amended as follows:

- (a) after paragraph (h) by deleting the full stop and inserting —

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“

; and

- (i) providing for —

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- (i) the convening of a technical review panel of independent professional engineers; and

- (ii) the procedure to be followed on a review by a technical review panel and the period of time within which a review is to be completed; and

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- (iii) the payment of remuneration to members of a technical review panel.

”;

- (b) after each of paragraphs (a) to (f) by inserting —

“ and ”.

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