

# Gas Supply Amendment Regulation 2024

Explanatory notes for SL 2024 No. 31

made under the

*Gas Supply Act 2003*

## General Outline

### Short title

Gas Supply Amendment Regulation 2024

### Authorising law

Section 323 of the *Gas Supply Act 2003*

### Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The Gas Supply Amendment Regulation 2024 (Amendment Regulation) amends the Gas Supply Regulation 2007 (GS Regulation) by replacing references to the supply of 'processed natural gas' with references to 'covered gas'.

A 'covered gas' is defined as a primary gas or primary gas blend and includes processed natural gas, hydrogen, biomethane, synthetic methane, or a gas prescribed by regulation that is suitable for consumption.

The amendments broaden the scope of these provisions and ensure consistency with the *Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Act 2023*.

This consistency is critical to ensure the *Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Act 2023* is implemented as intended in relation to disconnection and reconnection of consumers to a distributor's network.

### Achievement of policy objectives

The objective of the Amendment Regulation is achieved by broadening relevant provisions of the GS Regulation to apply to hydrogen and other covered gases.

There are three relevant provisions in Part 4 of the GS Regulation that apply to 'processed natural gas':

- Section 43(h) refers to a customer who has unlawfully taken 'processed natural gas';

- Section 47(2) refers to ‘processed natural gas’ installation and meters;
- Section 48(1)(a) refers to reconnection of the supply of ‘processed natural gas’.

The Amendment Regulation broadens the scope of these provisions to include hydrogen and other covered gases by replacing references to ‘processed natural gas’ with ‘covered gas’. This ensures the relevant provisions of the GS Regulation give effect to, and are consistent with, the *Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Act 2023*.

## **Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law**

Upon Proclamation of the *Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Act 2023*, the policy objectives of the *Gas Supply Act 2003* will be broadened to enable hydrogen and other covered gases to be transported in pipelines. The Amendment Regulation will ensure relevant provisions of the GS Regulation are consistent with the objective of the *Gas Supply Act 2003*.

## **Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation**

The Amendment Regulation is not inconsistent with policy objectives of other legislation.

## **Benefits and costs of implementation**

It is expected that costs will be minimal and will form part of existing assessment and compliance processes. Any implementation costs to government will be met from existing agency budget allocations.

## **Consistency with fundamental legislative principles**

The Amendment Regulation is consistent with the fundamental legislative principles as defined in section 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

## **Consultation**

Extensive Government and public consultation took place as part of the development and progression of the *Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Act 2023*.

In accordance with the Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy, the Office of Best Practice Regulation was consulted. An Impact Analysis Statement has been completed that identifies that no further regulatory impact assessment is required as the regulatory proposal is machinery in nature.

Given the minor and consequential nature of the Amendment Regulation, no further consultation has been undertaken.