

Consumer Advisory Note

LPG Autogas conversions

September 2006

Consumers who may be considering converting their vehicle to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) should do their homework first and be aware of the many aspects of a gas powered vehicle.

The following are the major things that consumers should take the time to consider before acting:

- ✓ LPG is much cheaper than petrol;
- ✓ LPG is more environmentally friendly;
- ✓ Gas powered vehicles can still be serviced by everyday qualified mechanics.
- ❗ Always check with the vehicle manufacturer for conversion compatibility;
- ❗ New car engine warranties may be compromised after conversion;
- ❗ If buying a new car, consider buying one with factory fitted gas;
- ❗ Vehicles made prior to 1996 can be more suitable for conversion but the cost may not be justified against the value of the vehicle;
- ❗ Shop around to get the best value and price. Ask if new parts are being used. Don't pay new prices for second hand parts;
- ❗ Gas engines run hotter than petrol and could experience premature wear;
- ❗ Gas is a dry fuel and can provide less lubrication to an engine's fuel systems;
- ❗ There may be costs in addition to those for conversion;
- ❗ The cost of running a vehicle on LPG is cheaper than petrol even though you use 10% to 30% more LPG to travel the same distance.
- ❗ Conversion may reduce boot or cargo space;
- ❗ Gas tanks need to be recertified every ten years (similar to BBQ bottles);
- ❗ Ignition systems must be maintained regularly (vital for gas vehicles);
- ❗ Gas conversion fitters must be licensed by the Energy Safety Division of the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection; and
- ❗ All gas conversions must be inspected at a Department for Planning and Infrastructure vehicle inspection centre. The State Government rebate will not be paid until the gas conversion has passed this inspection. Your nearest centre can be found at www.dpi.wa.gov.au or by calling 131156 during office hours.

Remember

Always do your homework thoroughly and check with the manufacturer before proceeding.

Consumer Protection staff can be contacted for further assistance and information:

☎ 1300 30 40 54

✉ consumer@docep.wa.gov.au