

16 May 2011

### **GAS INDUSTRY COMPANY APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR**

Dennis Barnes has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Gas Industry Company. The appointment follows the recent retirement from the Board of David Baldwin.

Dennis Barnes was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Contact Energy in April 2011. This followed 13 years in Australia with Origin Energy, including in a range of gas-related roles and serving on the boards of two Australian gas regulators. Prior to that, Mr Barnes worked in various international energy markets, including managerial roles with Scottish and English electricity companies.

The Chair of the Gas Industry Company, the Right Honourable Jim Bolger ONZ, welcomed Mr Barnes' appointment and highlighted the wealth of international commercial and regulatory experience he brings to the Board.

The Gas Industry Company's Board is required to have a majority of independent directors, who are Jim Bolger (Chair), Robin Hill (Deputy Chair), Keith Davis and Andrew Brown. Mr Barnes joins industry-associated directors Albert Brantley from Genesis Energy and Ron Kelly from Shell.

Mr Barnes' appointment is to fill a casual vacancy on the Board and is until the Company's Annual General Meeting in November, when he is required to retire and is eligible to stand for re-election by shareholders.

### **Background**

Gas Industry Co is a special-purpose company, owned by gas industry participants, that was established to fulfil the role of the industry body under the Gas Act 1992. Gas Industry Co works in conjunction with industry participants and other stakeholders to deliver on the objectives of the Act and the Government Policy Statement on Gas Governance, particularly by developing gas industry arrangements that ensure gas is delivered to existing and new customers in a safe, efficient and reliable manner. Gas Industry Company's strategic goal is to optimise the contribution of gas to New Zealand.

Further details are available at [www.gasindustry.co.nz](http://www.gasindustry.co.nz)

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