

# Energy for the regions program

# BANNOCKBURN



--- Gas Mains Reticulation

# Connecting Bannockburn to Natural Gas

## FAQs related to connecting to natural gas

### How do I know if my home will be connected?

The map on the reverse of this sheet is an indication of where gas mains will initially be laid in Bannockburn. If a gas main is installed within your street, you can lodge an application to your chosen natural gas retailer for connection to the network.

### What are my options if my home is outside the initial reticulation area?

Residents are encouraged to speak with their neighbours and register their interest with an application to a natural gas retailer. The energy retailer will then contact SP AusNet to assess the economics of the mains extension. An offer to connect will then be fed back to you via the energy retailer. There may be cost associated with the connection.

### Will it cost me any money if I'm connected under the Energy for the Regions program?

In the majority of cases, new connections to the gas network are provided free of charge from SP AusNet. There may be specific circumstances where customer contributions are necessary to facilitate connection. SP AusNet will consult with customers – through the retailer – on these potential cost prior to connection.

### Where will the natural gas mains be positioned?

In the street, the natural gas main is generally laid in the nature strip or if this is not possible, the main may be laid under the roadway or footpath. Typically only one main is laid in each street.

### Will I experience any interruptions in my power supply?

No. Your gas service and electricity service cables are independent of each other.

### If I do not wish to use this new gas supply can I remain with the old system?

It is your choice to convert to natural gas or continue using bottled gas, but we encourage you to pursue the benefits of natural gas conversion.

### Will the customer piping need to be replaced once the appliances are converted to natural gas?

SP AusNet provides a pressure of 2.75 kPa (at the gas meter) to match the pre-existing pressure of LPG so that customer piping replacement costs, if any, are kept to a minimum, provided it was originally installed to the plumbing code AS5601. We recommend checking with your plumber to determine if your piping requires changing. In all cases LPG appliances need to be converted to run on natural gas to enable sufficient energy to the appliance.

### What do I need to do once the pipes are in position?

You will need to apply for gas with a gas retailer. Once registered, SP AusNet will arrange through your retailer for appropriate works to be done, such as installing a service line and gas meter to your property.

## General FAQs

### What is natural gas?

Natural gas is an environmentally friendly, clean burning and naturally occurring energy source often used for heating, cooking and electricity generation. Consisting primarily of methane and other hydrocarbons, natural gas is regarded as an affordable, reliable and safe energy source.

### How does natural gas differ to liquid petroleum gas (LPG)?

There is negligible difference between the running efficiency of LPG and natural gas. However, natural gas is delivered via underground mains (pipes) as opposed to truck deliveries (bulk supplied or bottled) for LPG. With regard to price, the cost of LPG is determined by the retail outlet, whereas natural gas is typically more stable and cheaper, as its delivery cost is regulated by the Australian Energy Regulator.

### Can you convert LPG appliances to natural gas?

Most appliances can be converted, however, check with a registered plumber beforehand. The costs of converting your LPG appliance to natural gas are usually recovered within a short period after conversion. Conversion costs can vary with the make and model of the appliance.

**Note:** All LPG 'flue-less' heaters are not able to be converted to natural gas in Victoria.

### Apart from the low energy cost, why else would I value connecting to natural gas?

- Greater choice of appliances
- Convenience and reliability of supply
- Natural gas adds value to your house
- Natural gas meters are a fraction of the size of obtrusive LPG tanks
- LPG delivery trucks are less likely to frequent your street making it safer for pedestrians and a more tranquil setting
- Replacing wood heating with natural gas is more convenient and cleaner for your neighbourhood

## Project timeline - Bannockburn

