



Media release

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Firstgas Group appoints GM to lead new Future Fuels Team

Firstgas Group welcomes James Irvine, General Manager Future Fuels, who will lead a newly established and dedicated Future Fuels Team.

“We are thrilled James has joined Firstgas Group,” said Paul Goodeve, Firstgas Group CE. “In this newly created role, James will be responsible for leading the Future Fuels team in the development and implementation of our renewable energy strategy, new technologies, initiatives, programmes and partnerships.”

James Irvine, GM Future Fuels said, “It’s great to be in New Zealand and work for a Taranaki based company that has progressed its renewable fuels’ strategy and is committed to pursuing clean energy solutions. My first priority is setting up the Future Fuels team to enable the further development and delivery of this strategy.”

Previously at Shell International in London as Head of UK Onshore Renewable Power Development, James brings significant experience to the role, formulating, leading and delivering renewable energy strategies, investment and acquisition deals and partnerships spanning solar, onshore wind, battery storage and hydrogen.

James has recently negotiated partner deals and overseen the development of projects ranging from the UK’s largest solar project to small renewables projects directly supplying the likes of water utilities to support their decarbonisation journey. He also played a key role in compiling Shell’s global hydrogen strategy. Prior to heading up Shell’s UK onshore renewables activities, James worked on renewables deals across Europe, Asia and the US.

James also lived with his family in Taranaki from 2014 to 2017 where he held several positions for Shell New Zealand including Asset Well, Reservoir & Facilities Management Lead. James is an engineer by background and a Chartered Engineer with the U.K.s Engineering Council.

“New Zealand has the potential to be a world leading low emissions economy, with Taranaki and Firstgas having all the key ingredients to help get us there – including people and skills, ambition, renewable resources, existing assets and can-do attitude.

“Firstgas is playing a leading role in trialing hydrogen, biogas and other new fuels which are a necessary partner to the electricity grid in decarbonising New Zealand’s energy supply.



Electricity only provides about ¼ of national energy needs and further electrification and intermittent renewable generation will only increase the need for renewable fuels which can be produced, stored and dispatched on demand. I'm excited about the opportunities this presents and to be part of this journey," added James.

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About Firstgas Group:

Firstgas Group has been at the forefront of innovation in New Zealand's energy sector for nearly forty years. Through our leading companies Firstgas, Rockgas, Flexgas and Gas Services New Zealand, we have the future of gas in our sights - while ensuring Kiwis get the natural gas and LPG they need today, safely and reliably.

Investigating innovative technology is part of Aotearoa's journey to cutting emissions, and we firmly believe that the sustainability, reliability and affordability of gas will help get us there. That's why we continue to invest in our operations and explore new, better ways of delivering gas to all New Zealanders, now and in the future.

For more information visit www.gasischanging.co.nz

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