



MEDIA RELEASE

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LAST COAL DELIVERY HERALDS CLEANER HOSPITAL ENVIRONMENT

On Friday, September 27, 2002 at 3 pm, the last truck-load of coal will be delivered to the Auckland Hospital Central Plant. This historic event will happen in the presence of Hon. Judith Tizard, the Minister assisting the Prime Minister on Auckland Issues. The Central Plant's boiler will be converted from the current dual fuel system, coal and natural gas, to solely natural gas.

"This is an important day for Auckland Hospital and the environment. Conversion to full natural gas means the organisation will reduce its CO2 emissions by 13,000 tonnes. This represents 13% of the Government's target for the entire public sector. It also means a much cleaner environment with the complete elimination of coal dust," says Dr Nigel Murray general manager of the Auckland District Health Board's Building Programme.

NGC Energy will be the gas supplier for the next three years and New Zealand contractor, Easteel Industries has the contract for the boiler conversion work.

The new Auckland City Hospital, currently under construction adjacent to Auckland Hospital, will significantly increase the demand for energy to supply heat, steam and air conditioning. If the Auckland District Health Board [ADHB] had continued with a dual system, the coal requirement would have gone from 8000 tonnes p.a. to 12000 tonnes p.a., the latter represents two to three coal truck deliveries every day.

The last coal delivery has already happened at the ADHB's Greenlane site. Grafton's last delivery is a significant moment in the long history of Auckland Hospital at Grafton. The ADHB sees its conversion to full natural gas as a contribution to a cleaner Auckland environment and the Government's position on the Kyoto Agreement.

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