**Distribution & Supply of LPG**

- The SA government’s declared a National State of Disaster due COVID 1.9 – Gas production, supply an maintenance is listed as an essential service.
- Businesses who need to remain in operation during the period need to apply for a company permit to do so.
- Employees that are required to work also require letter of authorization from the head of their organisations. Companies are also required to scale back operations and manage essential services with reduced/limited staff to reduce contact between employees.
- A major concern for employees of companies that are opened due to being essentials services is the inability to procure PPE (masks, N95, sanitisers, etc).

**Possible support to SMEs**

- **Financial Distress** Some companies will have to shut down during this period. It is therefore anticipated that employees may lose income. Employers are encouraged to continue to pay employees, but where this is not economically possible; government have created a special benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Fund. The benefits will only pay for the cost of salaries for the employees during the temporary closure of the business operations due to COVID 19. Employers will need to make application for this.

**Extension of practitioner licenses**

- Gas Practitioner licences expiring during COVID 19 Lock down - The Association will extend licences for a possible period of 6 months after Lock down.