

E – INSTITUTE

The Official Newsletter of IPA



The Institute of Plumbing
Australia Incorporated

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Call for Papers

Following the Institute's successful association with the Designbuild Exhibition in Sydney earlier this year (see report below) the Institute of Plumbing Australia has agreed to support the inaugural Designbuild Perth being held 12 to 14 October 2007 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. Apart from meeting the professional plumbers of Perth at the Institute Exhibition Stand we will also conduct the second Australian National Plumbing Forum for 2007. As with the Sydney Forum the theme will be based around water and sustainability and will run in the afternoon/evening on the first day of the Exhibition, Friday 12 October. We are currently calling for papers to be presented to the Forum in Perth. The programme will be limited to 3 or 4 quality presentations leading into an open forum/panel discussion, a fellowship cocktail function will conclude the event.

Themes for presentations include but are not limited to:

- Energy Savings through efficient Plumbing Systems.
- Grey Water collection, treatment, reuses.
- Rainwater Harvesting.
- Standards and Regulations.
- Urban Master Planning.

Individuals, Companies, Authorities seeking to register an interest in making a presentation should contact the Institute Secretary, Stephen Movley by email: secretary@plumbing.org.au or by Mobile: 0418 957 383.

In this issue

Call for Papers:
2007 Australian National
Plumbing Forum - Perth

2007 Australian National
Plumbing Forum - Sydney.

Regulation of Plumbing
Product Quality.

National Plumbing
Regulators Forum seeks
Public Comment.

2007 Australian National Plumbing Forum – Sydney

On 5 June 2007 The Institute of Plumbing Australia continued its series of open forums commenced in Perth 2004 with the 2007 Australian National Plumbing Forum. The theme was Water – Use it, Reuse it or Lose it and the three excellent speakers, a topical subject and an attentive and willing audience proved to be the recipe for success. In Perth in 2004 the Institute was celebrating its 50th anniversary and hosted a week of activities including a trade expo. For the past two years we have combined with the Designbuild Exhibition and in Sydney at the Sydney Conference and Exhibition Centre this proved a successful partnership. So much so that we have agreed to support the inaugural Designbuild Perth, see lead article this issue. Speakers in Sydney included Craig Bradley from the National Water Commission speaking on

the \$1.6billion Water Smart Australia funding programme; Kevin Flanagan Director Engineering Services Toowoomba City Council on the recharge of drinking water dams with treated effluent and Peter Ham, Programme Manager for Gold Coast Water's Pimpama – Coomera Water Future Master Plan, this whole of region master plan for an integrated urban water cycle management will create one of Australia's first water sustainable communities.

At the conclusion of the three presentations the speakers formed a panel for an open forum discussion on matters raised by the audience. This proved to be a lively affair with everybody joining in. The function concluded with fellowship over drinks and finger food.

Later this year the Australian National Plumbing Forum will return to Perth in conjunction with the inaugural Designbuild Perth Exhibition 12 – 14 October 2007 at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre. Once again we promise you expert speakers, topical subjects, an open forum and lively fellowship. If you would like to be included on a mailing list for information about this next Forum simply send an email to secretary@plumbing.org.au

Inquiry into the regulation of plumbing product quality

Parliament of Australia House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage has commenced an inquiry into the regulation of plumbing product quality in Australia. This inquiry is the direct result of lobbying by the plumbing industry with regard to anomalies in the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) whereby a plumbing product without Watermark approval and so not permitted by law to be installed in a regulated plumbing system in Australia is able to achieve a WELS Label, another instance is where a product does not achieve a WELS star rating but is able to be displayed with a WELS non-compliant label further confusing the buying public. These and other inconsistencies come to a head when consumers purchase products in good faith and plumbers have to refuse to install them or risk prosecution.

Along with other plumbing industry organisations the Institute has been asked to provide a submission to this inquiry by 17 August 2007.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the IPA Submission should note the following terms of reference for the [Inquiry into the Regulation of Plumbing Product Quality in Australia](#).

The committee will inquire into the regulation of plumbing product quality in Australia, examining in particular:

- the appropriateness and effectiveness of the current plumbing product quality regulatory arrangements
- scale of environmental benefits from controlling plumbing product quality
- trade implication of controlling plumbing product quality
- potential improvements to the plumbing quality regulatory system
- the appropriate level of government to administer plumbing product quality regulation, that is, the states (as is now) or the Commonwealth.

Comments or suggestions should be emailed to secretary@plumbing.org.au

National Plumbing Regulators Forum seeks Public Comment

At the 24th Biennial ANZRA Conference in Fremantle November 2006 a decision was taken to transition the Australian New Zealand Reciprocity Association (ANZRA) into the National Plumbing Regulators Forum (NPRF). A public consultation paper has recently been distributed to the delegates to the Fremantle Conference and other industry stakeholders inviting comment and input into this transition.

It is obvious that from speaking with members of IPA and the growth of the Plumbing Coalition Australia that the wider Plumbing Industry is enthusiastic about having a say in the industry's future. It is also essential for public health that plumbing remains highly regulated but it also requires peer pressure alongside regulation to make it work.

This "public consultation" phase of the new look NPRF allows industry to help set the policies for the future, this is something that this Institute has commented on in the past and firmly believes needs major improvement if Industry is to be seen to be fully consulted on matters affecting its future. Although the ANZRA – NPRF transition is mainly a case of logistics as the major decisions have been made, two other matters are raised in the discussion paper and that is the formation of advisory committees:

- Licensing and Education Advisory Committee (LEAC)
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The IPA firmly believes that the wider plumbing industry must be represented on these advisory committees if for no other reason but to champion wide public consultation.

For those wishing to comment the public discussion paper emanates from the Chairman NPRF c/o Plumbers Licensing Board, Locked Bag 14, Cloisters Square WA 6850 (TEL: 08 9282 0478 FAX: 08 9282 4387) The IPA has been unable to locate a WWW based version.

The IPA will provide comment to NPRF by the due date of 31 August 2007.

Editorial

In this issue of E-INSTITUTE we have departed from our original concept of using plain text to keep the file size down and for ease of opening on all versions of software, we hope you like it but if it causes you any problems please let us know. One of the reasons behind the change was comments that the plain text sometimes appeared as spam on some computers. We have kept the formatting as simple as possible but allowing our logo and some colour to brighten it up. With this issue we have included an attached pdf version for those that may have trouble with this html version but then some have trouble with attachments so once again please report any problems to the secretary.

Our aim remains to provide a vehicle for all members to participate in the workings of the Institute from the comfort of their desk. This is particularly important as through evolution the IPA moves from the traditional Chapter system to a more National approach.

Your input into this Newsletter and other IPA matters is always welcome and in fact sort after.

Comments on matters raised in E-INSTITUTE or suggestions for future issues are welcome and may be sent to the Editor at:

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You have been sent this Newsletter as a member of the IPA or as a professional member of the wider plumbing industry. If you do not wish to receive further issues please send a reply email with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.