

E – INSTITUTE

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The Institute of Plumbing
Australia Incorporated

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Promoting Consistency in all things Plumbing

Editorial

Finally the National Occupational Licensing Authority (NOLA) takes shape with the appointment of a board and chair, see press release from DIISRTE copied below. All we need is the long overdue Draft Regulations and Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) and Industry will be able to evaluate, agree or disagree with the national licensing proposal.

At first glance the NOLA Board does not fit the expected model with in my opinion an over representation from consumer affairs to the exclusion of current on-the-ground industry people and regulators. In saying that it must be remembered that this board will ultimately oversee licensing of a multitude of diverse occupations and I expect will need to rely on well resourced advisory committees covering individual occupations. Being one of the oldest professions plumbing is also one of the oldest requiring a license to operate, historically water supply and drainage boards/authorities issued licenses to protect their infrastructure; these types of license were a technical license that ensured that plumbers had the knowledge and expertise to install sound plumbing systems providing protection to both the infrastructure and public health. With the privatisation of utility operators we now see in many cases licenses issued by commerce related government departments; Industry should be ever vigilant that the plumbers license remains a license gained through technical competence including experience and competence gained through an apprenticeship with consumer affairs handled as a duty of care.

Maybe all will be revealed in the RIS!

Stephen J Movley Editor

(DIISRTE = Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education. A longer title for what was DEEWR.)

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COAG Reform Agenda - Appoints Board of the National Licensing Authority

21 February 2012

A new board and Chair of the inaugural National Occupational Licensing Authority (NOLA) have been appointed as part of the Australian Governments' (COAG) reform agenda. The NOLA Board will play a role in the establishment, direction and leadership of the new statutory authority and oversee policy direction and administration of the new national licensing system.

Ms Elizabeth Crouch has been appointed as Chair of the NOLA Board.

Ms Crouch has 10 years of experience on various public and private sector boards, including current appointments as Deputy Chancellor of Macquarie University and Chair of the New South Wales Fair Trading Advisory Council. Ms Crouch also chairs various audit committees in health and transport and is Chair of the Police Rewards Evaluation Advisory Committee. In particular, her current role as the Chair of the Fair Trading Advisory Council will be highly relevant to the industry and consumer protection elements of the new national licensing system. Ms Crouch will be a tremendous asset to the Board.

Eight Board members have also been appointed including:

Mr Graham Anderson

Mr Anderson has previously held roles within the Housing Industry Association (HIA). His roles included National President, Board Member and State President. Mr Anderson has also held senior roles with Bunnings Ltd and Bovis Homes Australia Ltd.

Mr Tony Arnel

Mr Arnel after 12 years has recently announced his resignation as Victoria's Building and Plumbing Industry Commissioner. He is Chair of the World Green Building Council and is founding Director and the current Chair of the Australian Green Building Council. Mr Arnel has been responsible for implementing significant improvements in practitioner training and training policy in the building and plumbing industries in Victoria.

Ms Miranda Douglas-Crane

Ms Douglas-Crane has had significant experience in senior executive roles in a range of industries, including 14 years experience in the development of employment and training policy and design for State and Commonwealth governments and has had direct involvement in trade training. She currently holds appointments on Austin Health, the State/Commonwealth \$2 billion Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project, RACV Foundation and the Board of Special Olympics Victoria.

Mr David Ford

Mr Ford is the Deputy Director-General and Commissioner for Fair Trading at the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Mr Ford serves as the Queensland Treasury representative on the COAG Business Regulation and Competition Working Group which has oversight of the business, competition and regulation reforms.

Ms Anne Gale

Ms Gale is Deputy Commissioner and Director of Regulatory and Customer Services at the South Australian Office of Consumer and Business Affairs. Ms Gale has significant experience in senior and executive leadership roles, including 10 years at the Department for Families and Communities.

Mr Albert Koenig

Mr Koenig is a chartered professional electrical engineer with wide experience in electricity and gas utility engineering and executive management, as well as energy industry technical and safety regulation. In 1995 he became Western Australia's first Director of Energy Safety. In that role he was the statutory technical and safety regulator for the energy industry, including related occupational licensing.

Ms Wendy Machin

Ms Machin was previously New South Wales Minister for Consumer Affairs with portfolio responsibility for regulation and licensing of building, real estate and air travel industries and was Chair of the relevant Ministerial Advisory Council. Ms Machin is currently President of NRMA Motoring and Director of the Australian Automobile Association. She is also on the Board of Destination NSW and is a member of the ANZ Stadium Advisory Committee.

Mr John Sutton

Mr Sutton has worked in a variety of roles in Australia's trade unions, including nearly 20 years in the leadership of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU). He also held the position of Vice President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) and recently held the position of Associate Commissioner at the Productivity Commission.

The NOLA Board members have extensive industry knowledge and appropriate skills and experience through their involvement in unions, employer representation, consumer advocacy and training.

NOLA was established on 1 January 2011 to administer the National Occupational Licensing System and will be based in Sydney.

The purpose of national licensing is to improve labour mobility and remove inconsistent regulation between states and territories with the ultimate aim of enhancing business efficiency and productivity.

The national system will commence initially for four occupational areas including electrical, refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics, plumbing and gas fitting, and some property occupations.

COAG Reform Agenda - Appoints Board of the National Licensing Authority

<http://www.innovation.gov.au/AboutUs/DepartmentalMediaReleases/Pages/COAGReformAgenda-AppointsBoardoftheNationalLicensingAuthority.aspx>[24/02/2012 10:42:06 AM]

Second wave occupations will include building, building related occupations and conveyancers and valuers.

For further information about NOLA including Board member profiles visit: www.nola.gov.au.

MEDIA RELEASE



EMBARGOED until 12.00am, Monday 20 February 2012

Environmental Scan 2012-13 Outlines Future Skilling Challenges

CPSISC, the National Industry Skills Council responsible for the building and construction and property services industries, today released its 2012-13 Environmental Scan (EScan), reporting that these industries are managing to operate as well as could be expected and are optimistic for an improvement.

CPSISC Chief Executive, Alan Ross said today, "the 2012-13 Environmental Scan of Construction and Property Services Stakeholders is showing limited growth for the next 12 to 18 months, however, skill shortages are expected to re-emerge into the longer term.

"This research sheds light on a set of demand factors that indicate a need for an ongoing commitment to training into the long term to support forecast activity beyond 2012. Some key demand factors include; infrastructure and resource sector exigencies on the civil construction sector; major projects in the commercial sector pipeline such as Sydney's Barangaroo project; and an increase in the national housing undersupply deficit requiring future correction.

"The EScan considers these types of demand factors in unison with forecasts such as those from Master Builders Australia that 50,000 entrants to the industry will be required each year on average during the next decade, with around two thirds of this demand being for skilled roles.

"2012 is shaping up to be a difficult year for the 1.8 million Construction and Property Services Stakeholders. The combination of shifting global economic influences, stimulus measures winding down, constrained access to credit, interest rate uncertainty, as well as rising consumer caution are all impacting on forecast activity for construction and property services", he said.

"A slower activity period for commercial and residential construction is expected to filter through to CPS Stakeholders such as real estate, waste management, pest management whose demand for goods and services are correlated.

"CPSISC's stakeholder survey which informs the EScan is showing a downside risk that as conditions tighten in 2012 there is a reduced capacity for training to be provided by employers. A reluctance to train could reduce the pool of skills available constraining future activity.

"As a positive, the EScan indicates that employers are embracing Federal Government workforce development funding for training and a continuation of this support is encouraged to offset any reluctance on the part of employers to offer upskilling to employees in 2012.

"The report also feeds back the value of certain approaches to training such as EBPPP to providing targeted training for construction and property services to help realise immediate and longer term skilling needs that the EScan indicates", said Mr Ross.

For further Media queries contact:

Nick Proud, Director - Policy and Research 0408 538 126

To view the full EScan report follow the link below:

www.cpsisc.com.au/resources/Corporate_docs/CPSISC_ESCAN_2012_20.2.2012_FINAL.pdf

Forward Notice of Meeting:

The Institute of Plumbing Australia Inc. will hold its 2012 Annual General Meeting at the Travel Inn Hotel, Melbourne on Saturday 28 April 2012.

There will be a full day Council Meeting to which all members are welcome to attend and contribute with the AGM commencing at 11:00am followed by Lunch.

The full notice of meeting, agenda and special business will be circulated to all members closer to the event.

If you have business in Melbourne around that time why not stay over for the Saturday and take part in what will be important decisions for the future of the IPA.

Plumbing Code of Australia 2012

Another round of seminars in February and March 2012 have been programmed by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) and Standards Australia on the Plumbing Code of Australia and how it fits in the National Construction Code, see [ABCB/Events](#) for dates and registration details. or www.abcb.gov.au for full information about the workings of the ABCB.

International Emerging Technology Symposium 2012

Once again this unique symposium will be Co-Convened by IAPMO and World Plumbing Council

1-2 May 2012 Washington DC USA.

Read all about it including online registration and accommodation etc. just follow the link below to the IAPMO Green Newsletter.

<http://forms.iapmo.org/GreenNewsletter.asp>

Selection and Sizing of Copper Tubes for Water Piping Systems

[Selection and Sizing of Copper Tubes for Water Piping Systems by Barrie Smith](#) (the blue book) is now available in both DVD and E-Book download, visit www.plumbing.org.au and follow the links.

NOTE:

Companion Spreadsheet now available, see www.plumbing.org.au for details and FREE Download. (follow the button links or click on **Technical Book Sales and scroll to bottom of page for **Spreadsheet Files****

Your input into this Newsletter and other IPA matters is always welcome and in fact sort after. If you are not already a member why not join and really help us provide a voice for plumbers and plumbing. Simply email the Secretary below.

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

The Institute of Plumbing Australia Inc.

P O Box 2005

MARMION

Western Australia 6020

FAX: 08 9448 0420

EMAIL: secretary@plumbing.org.au

WEB: www.plumbing.org.au

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