

E – INSTITUTE

The Official Newsletter of IPA



The Institute of Plumbing
Australia Incorporated

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Promoting Consistency in all things Plumbing

Building Commission's – Bad News for Plumbers:

In Victoria, probably the oldest Australian Building Commission wines and dines the very people it regulates but the Plumbing Commission only appears tarnished by association - See story at [Canberra Times](#)

In Western Australia the fledgling Building Commission not only cannot manage its own backyard with massive log jams in building approvals, caused by poorly advised legislation, but has ripped off plumbers to finance its operation – See the damning public sector performance report June 2012 by the Auditor General - See full report at www.audit.wa.gov.au

The Auditor General has urged the Western Australian Government to adhere to its own policy The Principles of Good Corporate Governance for Western Australian Public Sector Boards and Committees; Plumbing Industry Stakeholders concur, especially with the following policy in relation to changes to a board:

“An appropriate process should exist for board member succession, with emphasis on the timing required for replacement to maintain a balance between new and existing board members.”

At this time with the introduction of a Building Commission yet, it seems, to reach full functionality, the incorporation of national licensing just starting to ramp up at state level, pending adoption of the national construction code including the Plumbing Code of Australia and many other complex matters the Government, presumably with advice from the Building Commission and Commerce, has seen fit to not only replace the Plumbing Licensing Board Chairperson but also the Deputy Chairperson (a technical person with 9 years board experience), the peak employer body representative and in recent times the peak employee body representative! If this is not a move by the Building

Commission and Commerce to orchestrate failure so as to extricate themselves from this self made debacle I am not sure what is.

The Plumbers Licensing Board (PLB) is established under the Water Services Licensing Act (1995) and when created in 1999 was supported by the then Office of the Water

In this issue –

Regulator Problems in the West.

WPC Review

**WPC Scholarship 2012
(closes 31 July 2012)**

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Regulator. Since that time governments have changed the supporting department from the technically astute Office of Water under the Minister for Environment and Water to now sit under the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Small Business and his Department of Commerce neither having any expertise in protection of public health, safe water supplies or the environment; all cornerstones of what plumbing is all about. At the same time as moving plumbing to an area of government unable to provide the necessary support they also in their wisdom reduced the board membership from 9 down to 7 at the same time reducing the number of directors with direct knowledge of plumbing by 3. Presumably to counteract these poorly considered moves the decimated PLB then introduced a voluntary Plumbing Industry Reference Group (PIRG) to provide it with direct industry input into matters before it. Unfortunately the public servants that supposedly work for the PLB have repeatedly failed to recognise the real purpose of the PIRG, failed to provide a direct two way link between the PLB and its PIRG and on a number of occasions virtually closed the PIRG down apparently without the knowledge of the PLB.

BUT strange things happen and the PIRG is now in favour with Minister O'Brien stating in writing that the PIRG will provide advice to the government on policy matters affecting Western Australia's plumbing industry! What happened to the PLB, Minister? At this time the PLB is still the properly constituted body under legislation to regulate plumbing licensing and plumbing regulation in Western Australia and therefore the body to advise government on policy, the PIRG has no legislative standing other than being a committee of the PLB. Industry Members of the PIRG have pledged their support to the PLB and have requested that their letter of support is tabled at the next (July) PLB meeting.

More in the next issue:

In writing the above editorial a view point has emerged that I support:

It has long been the contention of the Institute of Plumbing Australia Inc. and in fact the world wide community of plumbers including organisations such as the WHO that plumbers are health workers. It is also true that as final deliverers of water and sewer services plumbing fits well with the Minister for Environment and Water and the Department of Water in Western Australia certainly this is a better fit than the Minister for Finance; Commerce; Small Business and certainly does not sit well in a Building Commission because the wider calling of plumbing is much more than new construction.

Stephen Movley

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WPC Review Newsletter: See Attached

World Plumbing Day 2012

Water for Life Exhibition

International Emerging Technologies Symposium

Tajikistan Revisited

WORLD PLUMBING COUNCIL EDUCATION & TRAINING

SCHOLARSHIP 2012

APPLICATIONS CLOSING SOON

The value of the WPC Education and Training Scholarship is up to US\$10,000, which covers the costs associated with return travel, lodging, meals and incidentals. The World Plumbing Council initiated the Education and Training Scholarship in 2003 and it continues to this day to be one of the most beneficial programs offered by the WPC to the plumbing industry at large.

Please visit www.worldplumbing.org click on Communications then Education & Training Scholarship to see the reports of previous recipients and to download an application for the 2012 Scholarship.

Applications close on the 31st July 2012.

World Plumbing Council to meet in Australia

A General Meeting of the World Plumbing Council will be held in Brisbane, Australia on the 21st/22nd October 2012 to be followed by an Australian Plumbing Industry Conference in Cairns, Queensland, the gateway to the Barrier Reef.

More information on the World Plumbing Council at www.worldplumbing.org

Information on the Australasian International Plumbing Conference can be found at www.plumbingconference.com.au

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:
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