

# Plumbing newsflash number 434

## Recent legislative changes

### Purpose

To advise of recent changes to plumbing laws relating to:

- large greywater treatment systems
- licensing arrangements for teachers
- licensing fee amendments
- designating a local government for a remote area
- clarifying the scope of work for a restricted water plumber—electrical.

### Legislation

*Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002* (PDA)

Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 (PDR)

Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 (SPDR)

*Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*

Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code (QPW Code)

### Large greywater treatment systems (>50 kL)

#### Background

Changes to the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* and the PDA through the *South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2010* commenced on 23 May 2010 transferring approvals of large greywater treatment systems to the PDA. All greywater treatment systems, regardless of size, are now to be assessed and approved under the Chief Executive approval system of the PDA. The QPW Code has been amended to set standards for these larger systems.

#### Issues

Manufacturers wishing to market a greywater treatment system in Queensland, regardless of size, will have to first obtain Chief Executive approval for the system. To obtain Chief Executive approval an application must be lodged with Building Codes Queensland. The system must meet the requirements of the QPW Code. This includes testing results (over a 26 week period with samples being taken twice weekly) from a NATA or AS/NZS accredited testing agency verifying the water quality complies with table T1C of the QPW Code.

A list of approved systems can be obtained from the department's website at

[www.dip.qld.gov.au/plumbing/greywater-treatment-plants.html](http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/plumbing/greywater-treatment-plants.html)

### Reduced licensing fees for teachers at Registered Training Organisations (RTO)

#### Background

Under the PDR, schedule 4 concessional fees for renewing a licence are available for retired persons not performing regulated work. Plumbers who are teachers at a RTO are not currently eligible for this concession.

## Issues

Teachers at RTOs do not earn an income from performing plumbing and drainage work and they also cannot recover fees through costs charged to customers.

## Amendments

The PDR, schedule 4 has been amended from 1 July 2010 to allow licensees teaching at a RTO and not performing plumbing or drainage work for payment to be eligible for the same concession as retired licensees.

## Administration fees payable once each financial year

### Background

Currently every renewal application for a licence or licence endorsement attracts an administration processing fee.

### Issues

A licensee can obtain up to multiple endorsements on a licence if the licensee completes the relevant courses approved by the Plumbing Industry Council. Each time the licensee renews an endorsement the licensee is charged an administration processing fee.

### Amendments

The PDR has been amended to allow licensees with multiple endorsements (with different renewal dates) to have endorsements renewed at different times without multiple administration fees payable in any one financial year. Licensees renewing their licence and endorsements will now only be charged a single administration fee for any renewals made in the same financial year.

## Designating a local government for a remote area

The SPDR has been amended to include the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) in schedule 5 (Local governments for remote areas). The TSIRC meets the requirements of the SPDR, section 25(1) and is now eligible for the exemptions from assessment compliance under section 86A of the PDA.

## Clarifying the scope of work for a restricted water plumber—electrical

The PDR, schedule 2 (Qualifications, practical experience and scope of work for restricted licences) has been amended to clarify the scope of work for a water plumber—electrical, the amendment is only related to electric resistance hot water systems and electric heat pump systems.

## Contact for further information

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