



# Building Newsflash

## QUEENSLAND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE POLICY ON DESIGN OF HYDRAULIC SYSTEMS

### Purpose

The purpose of this Newsflash is to clarify the status of a policy titled “*Design of Hydraulic Systems*” issued by the Department of Emergency Services through the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) on 9 October 2007.

### Background

On 9 October 2007 QFRS issued a policy regarding hydraulic standards for fire services in response to concerns about water service providers (WSP) not guaranteeing water supply standards for building fire safety installations. A copy of the policy is attached. The policy effectively stated that if the WSP would not attest to a guaranteed minimum level of water supply, designers must assume there is no water supply. The Department of Infrastructure and Planning has been asked to clarify this issue. The Departments of Infrastructure and Planning and Emergency Services advise the policy has been withdrawn.

### Legislation

#### **Integrated Planning Regulation 1998**

Schedule 2 - QFRS is an advice agency for certain developments.

#### **Building Act 1975**

Section 30 sets out the building assessment provisions.

### Interpretation

Building assessment provisions are set out in the *Building Act 1975*. Matters that are not contained in the building assessment provisions do not apply to building assessment work. Assessment managers may note that the withdrawn policy has no legal effect for any approvals assessed prior to its withdrawal.

Building Codes Queensland will be working collaboratively with stakeholders to develop practical solutions to ensure fire installation in new buildings continue to be properly approved under the relevant Standards. This work will include seeking clarification from WSP on the best method for determining water flows where pressure management programs are introduced. Preliminary investigations indicate that approvals in low lying central business district areas will be unaffected by pressure management programs.

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