



## Submission to the Finance and Administration Committee

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Finance and  
Administration Committee

### Payroll Tax Rebate, Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

The Plumbers Union Queensland supports the proposed amendments to the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002* (PDA) and the *Water Supply (Service and Reliability) Act 2008* (WSSRA) contained in the Payroll Tax Rebate, Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 which will require that only licensed persons can install water meters.

#### Background

Amendments to the PDA and the WSSRA were introduced on 13 May 2014. These amendments introduced an exemption which permitted water industry workers, operating as authorised persons for a water service provider, to install water meters without requiring a licence under the PDA.

The plumbing industry as a whole was strongly opposed to these changes, as there are many risks associated with performing this type of work which could endanger the health and safety of the community, and the environment if performed by an insufficiently trained person. The Plumbers Union Queensland has been advised of many incidents, from major cross-connections such as that which occurred at the Pimpama Wastewater Treatment Plant, to more minor issues such as electrocutions, leaking and wrongly placed meters which can have significant impacts on the residents of properties and the person performing the installation.

Due to the strong industry response to this issue, the current Government made a pre-election commitment to "restore high standards in Queensland's plumbing industry by requiring the installation of water meters to be performed by a fully qualified and licensed plumber."

The Plumbers Union Queensland supports the proposed amendments in the Payroll Tax Rebate, Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 as they support the implementation of the Government's pre-election commitment.

#### Response to proposed legislative changes

As mentioned above, the Plumbers Union Queensland supports the proposed amendments to the PDA and WSSR, including:

- amending subsection 121(1)(e) of the PDA to remove the exemption allowing an unlicensed authorised person employed by a water service provider to install water meters without committing an offence under section 119 or 120 of the PDA

- amending the definition of 'plumbing work' in the PDA to include a water meter that may form part of a water service provider's infrastructure, however must still be installed by a licensed person
- amending the WSSRA to clarify that a licence is required for the installation of water meters
- introducing a two year transitional period into both the PDA and WSSRA to allow existing authorised persons to perform this work without a licence.

### Response to proposed transitional arrangements

The Plumbers Union Queensland is committed to ensuring that all regulated plumbing and drainage work is performed by appropriately licensed persons.

Under the current system, the only licence type available for a person wishing to install water meters is a plumber's licence. This requires completion of a Certificate III in Plumbing and completion of a four year apprenticeship.

The Plumbers Union Queensland will work with the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and other relevant industry and training organisations to review the current training package and ensure it provides the desired outcomes for the water services industry.

The Plumbers Union Queensland supports the inclusion of a two year transitional arrangement in order to allow this review to be undertaken and any required changes implemented.

Thank you for consideration of this submission. If any further information or clarification is required, please contact the Plumbers Union Queensland on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Kind regards

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State Secretary  
Plumbers Union Queensland