

The Research Director,  
State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee  
Parliament House  
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Submission no. 006  
28 February 2014  
11.1.15

### **RE - Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014**

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to your inquiry regarding the Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014.

Fairfield Services Pty Ltd is a Brisbane based company which provides a range of complete and innovative Plumbing as well as Fire solutions to commercial projects. We are a valued project partner across many sites in Queensland and currently have over 150 employees.

I write to raise our concerns regarding proposed changes to plumbing licensing, regarding the installation of water meters. In particular the issues of:

- Warranty;
- Quality assurance and standard of work;
- Impact upon the broader industry;
- Workplace and Public Health and Safety.

#### Warranty:

Currently Fairfield Services provide a warranty on work undertaken by our company, including the installation and ongoing performance of water meters. Under these changes we may not be in a position where we can extend this warranty to meters, especially if this work is undertaken by an unlicensed person either no-qualifications or a qualification that Fairfield and our broader industry lacks confidence in.

#### Quality assurance and standard of work:

In the Queensland construction industry Fairfield Services works with builders and developers to ensure that their individual company policies, procedures and expectations are met. It is common industry practice for builders to seek guarantees regarding quality of work. Where Fairfield Services has a contract to deliver a plumbing package as part of a project we are the first point of contact should poor workmanship or materials lead to faulty installation. It is Fairfield Services firm position that a Certificate 3 level plumbing qualification is required to undertake the work in question. A qualification lower than Certificate 3 level will lead to inexperienced persons that do not understand the needs of a particular builder's construction project including areas such as program which in turn may result in project delays.

#### Impact upon broader industry:

Fairfield Services understands that the proposed legislation does include exemptions that may mean that a plumbing licence and an appropriate qualification is required to install certain types of water meters. However, these exemptions remain unclear and not understood by industry.

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Workplace and Public health and safety:

In order to undertake Plumbing works on major commercial projects, a vast knowledge and understanding of Workplace Health and Safety is required. In addition to the Queensland Work Health & Safety Act and Regulations, comprehensive proficiency in interpreting applicable Australian Standards and local regulations is fundamental. As part of Certificate 3 qualification and competencies, a licenced plumber gains experience and invaluable knowledge with respect to working on and around the community water grid and plumbing infrastructure. Should unlicensed/unqualified persons undertake such works, we feel the community health and safety could be compromised.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our submission.

Kind regards



Ross Sadler

Managing Director

Fairfield Services Pty Ltd

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