

# CANFIELD PLUMBING CO. PTY. LTD.

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26 February 2014

Submission No. 020

The Research Director  
State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

25 February 2014

11.1.15

Dear Committee Members,

## RE: Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

I am writing to put forward my submission for the Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 (the Bill). I am surprised that the Queensland Government is potentially allowing this Bill to be put through. This Bill proposes to deregulate the installation of water meters and allow unlicensed persons to carry out such work; **is not a wise move particularly when tradesmen are doing an excellent job in protecting the health of all the community.**

The plumbing industry is a licensed industry for a reason. Defective work performed within the water or sanitary systems can have catastrophic and dangerous results to the health and wellbeing of the community and that is why only appropriately trained and licensed plumbers should be allowed to install, maintain and repair water services and meters.

This proposed change to the plumbing legislation will permit unskilled, unlicensed persons to enter into our trade with a fraction of the skills I am required to hold and allow them to compete with my business. The unskilled, unlicensed persons will also effectively limit the amount of work available to my company and the eleven staff I employ.

As a licensed plumber, I personally had to undertake a five year apprenticeship to obtain my licence and develop a sound understanding of the intricacies of the trade. Anything less now than a Certificate III in Plumbing (gained through an intensive four year apprenticeship) would not provide the relevant skills and knowledge to be achieved to competently and successfully perform plumbing work, and the installation, maintenance and repair of water meters is plumbing work.

This is a dissemination of this long standing trade and won't stop there. Next the water service providers will want to work on sub-meters and have access onto the property and once there, where will it stop? If the Government is bending to the will of big business now, it won't stop in the future. What does this mean for my small business, my family and employees, given that this country is primarily run on small business? I see this legislation change resulting in the eventual deregulation of the plumbing industry all together.

The Government argues that they are doing this for red tape reduction. Yet, with the claim that there will be "no net reduction in employment", there will be plenty of additional red tape to transfer this task from plumbers who already do the work, to water service workers that would need training, compliance measures and management.

Sincerely,

*W. E. Canfield*

W. E. Canfield - Managing Director

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