

Leadbetter Contracting

Licensed Plumbers, Drainers & Civil Contractors

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

To the Committee,

RE: Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

Our company, Leadbetter Contracting, regularly installs water meters and sub-water meters in Queensland projects. As active and experienced employers in the plumbing and gas industry we are concerned about the possible changes to the qualifications and experience required to undertake plumbing work in Queensland.

Leadbetter Contracting undertakes the installation of water meters and frequently includes them as part of our plumbing package of work for projects. Leadbetter Contracting considers that allowing unqualified persons to undertake water meter installations would have a detrimental impact on projects across the State. It will lead to coordination issues with time being wasted while waiting on others to complete an installation that our work must connect on to.

We believe that a lowering in qualifications would lead to poor installations and poor maintenance outcomes, particularly work not being completed in line with AS3500 which is the plumbing set of Australian Standards.

Further, this lowering would put public health and safety at risk through possible cross connections of recycled water into the potable system as well as poor installations allowing foreign and possibly poisons chemicals into the water supply.

Leadbetter Contracting supports water meters being installed by a person with qualification at Certificate 3 level and a licence. Our company employs around 40 tradespersons all of who have at least a Certificate 3. Our experience with this level of qualification is that it is the correct one for quality outcomes that ensure public health and safety. We ensure that our work delivers safe and reliable drinking water to our customers and clients and the Certificate 3 is the bedrock of this.

Finally, we believe that as they are currently drafted, the changes do not explicitly state that an unqualified or non-licensed person will not be able to undertake the installation of sub-water meters and we request that this is addressed by the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Sincerely,



JIM LEADBETTER
LEADBETTER CONTRACTING