

15th November 2011

The Research Director
Transport, Local Government and
Infrastructure Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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TLGC

Re: Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011-11-15

Dear Minister Lucas,

As a current Licence holder and working contractor within Queensland I wish to put forward a number of concerns relating to proposed changes to the plumbing industry in Queensland.

A number of Queensland Plumbing contractors would like to raise concerns in regards to the consultation process for these proposed changes. It is clear that the state Government Department (Plumbing Industry Council – PIC) to which you are responsible for has not consulted with current Queensland contractors but rather utilised a consultation process made up from the building industry representatives to push through a change in direction for plumbing contractors in Queensland. (e.g. HIA, Master Builders Association, PICG). We believe consultation of some type with current licensed Queensland plumbing contractors not only in South East Queensland but North Queensland should have been undertaken.

Other concerns that should be put forward is the change in direction for plumbing legislation in that self certification and control of minor works in Queensland to be controlled and monopolised by State Government departments. It is clear that this has not worked in any other State in Australia but here we are introducing a self certification system controlled by State Government into our so called smart state. A consideration in regards in modifying minor works is needed but the concerns is the process undertaken by your department leaves a little to be desired. "Consultation"

How can current contractors working in this state be assured that the current health and safety work practices will be maintained under a self-certification system? The plumbing industry currently has a plumbing administration system in Queensland that promotes a fair playing field for all licensed plumbers and drainers, contractors are concerned that these proposed changes will erode this current system.

I would appreciate a response in regards to these concerns.

PAUL THOMAS

Name

Signature

Contact

Address