



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

5 March 2018

Transport and Public Works Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
TPWC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for providing Brisbane City Council (Council) with the opportunity to comment on the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018.

Council has previously provided comment and in principle support for the objectives of the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2017 on the 20 October 2017. Council has prepared the following response to the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018, raising the key areas of concern and unresolved issues.

In summary, Council has identified the following key areas of concern and unresolved issues.

- The use of the terms 'inspection certificate' and 'final inspection certificate' (section 69). The issuing of an inspection certificate after each inspection is a new onerous administrative requirement. It is not clear what benefit the introduction of these new certificates will deliver. There is also concern that domestic customers will not call for final inspections if they have obtained inspection certificates for the bulk of the works performed.
- The lack of regulatory support for local government to monitor on-site sewage facilities that are not for testing purposes (section 136).
- The inclusion of new definition for 'water service' (schedule 1 Dictionary) being the storage and harvesting of water. A water service generally relates to the reticulation of water.
- The enforcement penalties under the *Planning Act 2016* (the Planning Act) and *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002* do not align which is of significant concern (section 146). Penalties under the Planning Act have risen from 1,665 penalty units to 4,500 penalty units. This indicates that contravening a Plumbing Act Notice is not considered as significant as a Planning Act Notice which is of great concern.

- It is identified under section 58(1)(c), that a person does not commit an offence against section 56 or 57(1), (2) or (3) if the person is an unlicensed person carrying out the drainage work and a licensed person for the work is responsible for directly supervising the unlicensed person carrying out the work.

However, under section 121(c) of the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002*, there is no direct reference to an unlicensed person. This implies that a licensed person could employ an unlicensed person to undertake drainage works so long as they are directly supervised by a licensed person.

Without being able to review the proposed plumbing regulation and proposed new plumbing code, please note that Council's feedback is restricted and may not address future issues identified once these drafts become available.

Council seeks to collaborate with the Queensland Government to ensure that the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018 is established to operate in the best interests of all stakeholders.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Paula Sundholm, Team Manager Plumbing Services from Council's Development Services, City Planning and Sustainability, [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Colin Jensen
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER