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Committee Secretary  
Transport and Public Works Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

**By Email:** [tpwc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:tpwc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

### **Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the inquiry into this proposed legislation. Ai Group wishes to comment on one aspect of the Bill.

Section 65(1)(a)(ii) introduces the new term of “prohibited WaterMark product”. Under this Section it will be prohibited to install a product with a legitimate WaterMark certification if the State Government deems it “prohibited”.

Ai Group believes that this term ‘*prohibited WaterMark product*’ will introduce confusion and complexity. The plumbing sector is already having to coming to terms with a new WaterMark regime introduced last year by the ABCB. The introduction of this term signals to the market that WaterMark certification cannot be relied on and may actually worsen the problem that the QLD Government is trying to solve.

Ai Group also notes that *Building and Construction Legislation (Non-conforming Building Products – Chain of Responsibility and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2017* introduces requirements that plumbing products cannot be sold unless it carries the appropriate WaterMark certification. This Act goes further than any other jurisdiction in Australia in strengthening building regulatory frameworks to combat non-conforming building product.

Ai Group recommends that the Queensland Government work through its representative on the ABCB Plumbing Code Committee to improve the current WaterMark scheme rather creating an alternative to it.

If you need any further detail or clarification please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Thomson'.

James Thomson  
Senior Adviser – Standards and Regulation