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Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018

Submission 022

The Electrical Trades Union Queensland and Northern Territory branch (ETU) submits in support of the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2017.

In particular we welcome and support the introduction of a mechanical services licence into Queensland.

*Mechanical Services (including medical gas):*

The ETU supports a strong licensing system across all trades. The fact that vital and complex work on items such as the ones that control the pressure and quality of air into hospitals is unlicensed undermines the integrity of our whole Queensland licensing regime.

The mechanical services licence will address a scope of work that should be performed by skilled and qualified people. The air temperature, quality and pressure to buildings such as hospitals, health facilities, universities and schools is work that can no longer be performed by unskilled labour. We proudly support the adoption of a mechanical services occupational licence in Queensland. We further support that the Certificate III in Plumbing – Mechanical Services stream is the appropriate qualification to underpin it. We are aware that this qualification is currently delivered in Queensland to a high quality.

This area of work also includes medical gas. The level of risk created if this work is not performed properly is reason enough to put in place a licence and minimum qualification and we are proud to see this has been included within the suite of proposals within the Government's proposals.

*WaterMark reform:*

It is completely unacceptable that right now anyone, anywhere in the world could be performing what should be regulated plumbing work in a bathroom PODs (and other similar situations) simply because it has a technical WaterMark certification.

Technical certifications are not a replacement for a licensing system, especially those run by the current Federal Government. The current state of affairs put the people undertaking the installation at risk, they place family's investments in their residence at risk and more importantly they are putting lives at risk.

We know that there are people who support the complete deregulation of licensed trades and this is what the WaterMarking of bathroom PODs is doing by stealth.

Technical standards for products or items should not be used to encompass and entire room, set of rooms or a whole dwelling.

Only a person with the appropriate skills, qualification and licence should be able to undertake this kind of complex work. Trades men and women across our State need the protection of these proposed laws. Thank you for considering our submission.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PO', written in a cursive style.

Peter Ong

Deputy Divisional Branch Secretary