

Date: 12/3/2018
Contact: Gary Wilkins
Location: City Development
Telephone: [REDACTED]
Your reference: [REDACTED]
Our reference: [REDACTED]

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

Dear Sir/Madam

PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE BILL 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the *Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018* (the Bill).

Officers support the adoption of the Bill to establish a contemporary, streamlined and flexible legislative framework for plumbing and drainage that is clear and simple for the end user; will ensure both public health and the environment are protected; and will meet industry and community expectations over the next decade.

Notwithstanding the above, to ensure local government and industry are able to implement any new or amended legislative framework correctly there needs to be a sufficient lead time between when it is finalised/ formally adopted and when it is due to commence.

Whilst Acts of Parliament are the principal legislation, their implementation is more dependent upon the content of any accompanying regulations that they may have. It is in a regulation where the day-to-day operational impacts of the legislation are addressed.

Local Government's ability to implement a new Plumbing and Drainage Act will be dependent upon the timing of when the whole framework (inclusive of a new Plumbing and Drainage Regulation and any other supporting statutory instruments) is finalised/ formally adopted and the extent of proposed changes in comparison with existing requirements.

It is recommended State allow a minimum six month lead time between when the whole framework is formally adopted and when it is due to commence.

It has also been identified as part of the City of Gold Coast's delivery of the Commonwealth Games that provisions do not exist in the current *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002* or the Bill that allow for the temporary nature of such an event. Further, the *Major Events Act 2014* does not allow for works regulated under the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002* to be exempted.

This has led to a situation where the City of Gold Coast must insist installations comply with the "Deemed to Satisfy" provisions or a relevant "Performance Solution" of the Plumbing

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Code of Australia which given the temporary nature of the event is 'practically' impossible; and which has the effect of the City of Gold Coast not being able to issue a Compliance Certificate for the work.

It is recommended State identify that works of a temporary nature, which are part of a declared Major Event be excluded from the Plumbing and Drainage Act; and instead allow for these types of works to be the subject of a risk assessment process administered by the relevant Local Authority with any liability for identified risks being applied to the organiser of the event.

Should you wish to clarify any issues contained in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully



Amanda Tzannes
Acting Director,
Economy, Planning and Environment
For the Chief Executive Officer
Council of the City of Gold Coast