

**Question on Notice  
No. 991  
Asked on 6 June 2006**

MR LANGBROEK asked the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing (MR SCHWARTEN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to concerns expressed to me by plumbers-

- (1) Will he outline why plumbing contractor licensing is administered by the Building Services Authority and not the Plumbers and Drainers' Board?
- (2) Would it not provide a better outcome for the industry and consumers, if the Plumbers and Drainers' Board administered plumbing contractor licensing?

ANSWER:

The BSA is the regulator of the building industry in Queensland. Its charter is to protect consumers through a balance of effective and proactive regulation, education, information and insurance. The BSA controls a contractor licensing system for all builders, trade contractors and designers. Anyone intending to operate a construction business in Queensland must obtain a BSA licence.

The focus of the Plumbers and Drainers Board is on health and safety. The Plumbers and Drainers Board licences all plumbers who work in the building industry, not just those who operate a business. A licensed plumber does not have to be a contractor. They ensure every plumber has a qualification and their work is of an acceptable standard and will not unduly affect the health and safety of consumers. They do not have a Statutory Insurance Scheme that protects consumers from defective or incomplete work.

BSA's business licensing model ensures all plumbers not only have the technical skills, but have sufficient experience as a plumbing contractor, understand basic business concepts and have sufficient assets to be able to pay their employees, subcontractors and suppliers.

Plumber licensing with the BSA also ensures plumbers are properly supervising the plumbing work of employees and subcontractors, based on the supervision requirements contained in the *Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991*. BSA licensing also ensures plumbers are using contracts that are in compliance with the *Domestic Building Contracts Act 2000*.

The BSA's compliance regime also provides for plumbing contractors to be banned for three years, five years or life for non-payment, financial failures or serious defective work.

The BSA protects consumers through its dispute prevention and management programs and its Statutory Insurance Scheme. Any complaints made against the plumber about defective plumbing work can be quickly resolved or acted upon by BSA's technical inspectors.