

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 773

asked on 30 October 2013

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**MRS CUNNINGHAM** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND WATER SUPPLY (MR MCARDLE)—

QUESTION:

As licensed plumbers are currently the only people authorised to install and maintain water meters, will the Minister advise (a) if there are any plans to allow unlicensed installers to do this work and (b) if so, what considerations led to this decision and how can consumers be confident of the abilities of unlicensed installers/maintainers?

ANSWER:

- (a) Currently there is ambiguity between the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002* (Plumbing Act) and the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* (Water Supply Act) about who can install water meters which are part of a water service provider's infrastructure. To clarify the legislation, it is proposed to make it not an offence under the Plumbing Act for authorised persons appointed by the water service provider to install, maintain and repair water meters.
- (b) Water service providers own the water meter and can unambiguously install and maintain all other water infrastructure they own. Most water service providers are local governments. They have a strong incentive and legislative obligation to ensure safe drinking water is delivered to their customers. The requirement for a licensed plumber to install the water meter component of their infrastructure increases costs and red tape for providers.

The Water Supply Act requires the water service provider to make sure the authorised person has the appropriate training or expertise before being appointed.