

Plumbing Regulation News Update

News Update 0109

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NEW NPRF WEBSITE

The National Plumbing Regulators Forum (NPRF) is the peak committee of technical and occupational plumbing regulators in Australia and New Zealand. The NPRF works to ensure that the ideals and benefits of agreement in technical standards and policy, mutual recognition and licensing harmonisation are fully realised.

The NPRF has a new website: www.plumbingregulators.org

You will find information about NPRF projects and events including:

- the Plumbing Code of Australia and plumbing standards
- occupational licensing and registration
- harmonisation of plumbing regulation across Australia and New Zealand
- plumbing product certification - the WaterMark Certification Scheme
- water and energy-efficiency initiatives
- innovation in regulation, training and industry practices, and
- opportunities to engage on plumbing issues.

NEW REGISTRATION BOARD FOR THE PLUMBERS AND GAS-FITTERS REGISTRATION ACT

On 8 December 2008 the Governor-in-Council appointed the following persons as members of the new Registration Board established under the *Plumbers and Gas-fitters Registration Act 1951*:

- Tom Helmich
- Doug McClusky
- Neil Noye
- John Palmer
- Scott Burton
- Owen Smith
- Peter Lucas

This Board will perform registration functions under the 1951 Act until a new Occupational Licensing Advisory Board is appointed under the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*.

UPDATE ON COAG NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING SYSTEM

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed in July 2008 to the development of a national licensing system for the following occupational areas:

- plumbing and gas-fitting
- building and building related occupations
- air-conditioning and refrigeration mechanics
- electrical
- land transport
- maritime
- property agents.

COAG set a tight timeframe for initial work and requested that an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) be prepared for consideration at its meeting in December 2008.

Stakeholder Consultations and Consultation Regulation Impact Statement

Initial stakeholder consultations were embodied in the Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) to form the basis of further consultations in October 2008. The Consultation RIS may be viewed at www.licencerecognition.gov.au

Stakeholder Submissions

Submissions received in response to both the July and October consultations and RIS, following the agreement of the parties concerned, will be posted in January 2009 at www.licencerecognition.gov.au

Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and Decision Regulation Impact Statement

After taking into account representations and formal submissions from stakeholders, it was decided to defer COAG's consideration of an IGA. This allows further time to address a range of issues raised by stakeholders, including the need to further clarify governance arrangements for the proposed national licensing body and stakeholder consultation and advisory mechanisms. It is now expected that the IGA will be considered by COAG in early 2009. A Decision Regulation Impact Statement will be released when the IGA has been agreed by COAG. Once the IGA has been signed stakeholder consultation and advisory arrangements will be put in place for each occupational area.

Further information:

For more details about plumbing legislation contact the Workplace Standards Tasmanian Helpline:

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