

Building and Plumbing Newsflash 528

Building and plumbing consultations being held across Queensland

Purpose

To advise that the Department of Housing and Public Works is seeking feedback and submissions from plumbing and building stakeholders, local governments and the community on the following consultations:

- Review of the *Building Act 1975* and building certification in Queensland
- Review of the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002*
- Proposed new Queensland Development Code (QDC) part for farm buildings
- Proposed amendments to the QDC for building over or near infrastructure.

Background

Building legislation review

The review incorporates three key initiatives:

- a review of the *Building Act 1975*
- some items of the Ten Point Action Plan responding to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the operation and performance of the former Queensland Building Services Authority, which committed the Government to reviewing the role of private certifiers
- a review of further aspects of building certification, as requested by the Queensland Building and Construction Commission.

The main aims of the review are to reduce red tape and unnecessary regulation for the building industry and the community. They are also aimed at delivering greater accountability to consumers and helping to protect against conflicts of interest in building certification. As part of the review a [discussion paper](#) has been prepared which outlines some potential improvement options.

Mr Andrew Wallace, a construction law barrister, has been engaged to lead the review, consult with stakeholders throughout the State and provide final recommendations to the Government.

Plumbing legislation review

The department is also undertaking a comprehensive review of the State's plumbing requirements. The review aims to promote efficiencies, cut red-tape and reduce compliance costs for the plumbing and building industries and homeowners.

The review coincides with the upcoming expiry of the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003* (PDR)

and the *Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 (SPDR)*. It is a legislative requirement that Regulations are reviewed every 10 years to ensure their continued relevance to the economic, social and general wellbeing of the people of Queensland.

A [discussion paper](#) has been prepared that focuses on:

- streamlining requirements to reduce the regulatory burden on industry, without compromising public health and safety; and
- reducing red tape, time delays and associated costs for housing providers, plumbing licensees, local governments and homeowners.

Farm buildings

The department will be hosting preliminary consultation sessions on a proposed new QDC part for farm buildings to clarify fire safety and access requirements.

Building over or near infrastructure

Amendments are also proposed to QDC MP 1.4—*Building Over or Near Relevant Infrastructure* to introduce a proximity exemption for some work and to include better solutions for lightweight buildings and structures. Consultation sessions will also be held on these proposals. A consultation draft of the QDC part will be placed on the department's web site in the near future.

Have your say on these consultations

How do I provide comment?

Your comments and suggestions will provide the Queensland Government with valuable industry and community feedback on these reviews. To comment on the [Building Act 1975 and building certification](#) and the [Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002](#) visit the Get Involved website.

To request a copy of the survey to be sent to you, please email buildingcodes@qld.gov.au.

Written submissions

Please send written submissions by email or post to the following reviews:

- **Building Act 1975 and building certification:**
 - Email:** Review of the *Building Act 1975* and building certification in Queensland (as email subject line) to buildingcodes@qld.gov.au
 - Mail:** Review of the *Building Act 1975* and building certification in Queensland
GPO Box 2457, Brisbane QLD 4001
- **Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002:**
 - Email:** Review of the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002* (as email subject line) to buildingcodes@qld.gov.au
 - Mail:** Review of the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002*
GPO Box 2457, Brisbane QLD 4001
- **Building over or near infrastructure:**
 - Email:** Building over or near infrastructure (as email subject line) to buildingcodes@qld.gov.au
 - Mail:** Building over or near infrastructure
GPO Box 2457, Brisbane QLD 4001

Closing date for consultation

Submissions close **5pm, Friday 25 July 2014.**

State-wide information sessions

The dates and locations are available on the [BCQ's events page](#) of the Department of Housing and Public Works' website.

Contact for further information

Building Codes Queensland
Department of Housing and Public Works
Email: buildingcodes@qld.gov.au

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