



# Plumbing Newsflash

Plumbing Inspectors

## Plumbing and Drainage Inspections on Commonwealth Land

In response to enquiries from local governments the Department has investigated the *Sewerage and Water Supply Act 1949* as it applies to inspections of plumbing and drainage work on Commonwealth owned land, or land leased from the Commonwealth.

The Department is of the view that where the plumbing and drainage work is on a 'Commonwealth place'; local governments are, in most instances, empowered to carry out their statutory powers under the *Sewerage and Water Supply Act 1949*. A 'Commonwealth Place' is either land owned outright by the Commonwealth or land leased from the Commonwealth and used for private purposes.

However, the local governments jurisdiction can vary, depending on how the Commonwealth legislation governing operations on a particular site has been structured. Consequently, the Department strongly advises local governments to obtain their own legal advice on the issue of plumbing and drainage approvals and inspections on Commonwealth Land