



Building Newsflash

Water Saving Measures

Draft versions of new and updated Parts of the Queensland Development Code

Purpose

To advise draft versions of new and updated parts of the Queensland Development Code (QDC) have been published on the Department's website (www.lgp.qld.gov.au/?id=247). Please note also that re-numbering for all QDC Parts is being considered.

Background

On 20 August 2007, the Queensland Government announced further water saving measures aimed at preserving our drinking water supplies. These measures include the retrofit of water efficient devices and toilets in residential premises as part of major renovations, increased water efficiency in new commercial and industrial buildings and allowing the expanded use of treated greywater. The proposed new measures will commence on 1 January 2008.

Legislation

Building Act 1975

Building Regulation 2006

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002

Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003

Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code

Interpretation

Retrofit of water efficient devices and toilets in residential premises as part of major renovations

- Mandatory requirements for the installation of dual flush toilets and 3 star shower roses in new Class 1 and Class 2 dwellings and those undergoing bathroom renovations currently exist under the QDC Part 29.
- Proposed changes to Part 29 extend these measures to all renovations requiring both a building approval and a plumbing approval.
- Proposed changes also include some textual simplification and improved clarity for the application of water pressure limiting devices.

Increased water efficiency in new commercial and industrial buildings, including rainwater tanks

- Mandatory water savings targets already apply to new Class 1 dwellings.
- The proposed new QDC Part will require the mandatory installation of a rainwater tank or other acceptable solutions (currently being developed) connected for external use and internal use to toilet cisterns and cold water washing machine taps for all new Class 3 to 9 buildings and a Class 10 building associated with or ancillary to those buildings.

QDC Part 25 – Water Savings Targets

- A proposed update to Part 25 includes installing a treated greywater plant as an acceptable solution for meeting the water savings targets.
- Other proposed amendments include -
 - removing local government concurrence agency powers to expedite approvals. Where performance solutions are adopted the assessment manager may assess the building for compliance with the relevant performance criterion without the need for concurrence advice.
 - adding guidance relating to the operation of exemptions; and
 - allowing bladder tanks as acceptable solutions.

Contact

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