




PLUMBING AND GAS **PRIORITIES**



Master Plumbers'
Association of Queensland

A large, stylized blue quotation mark icon, consisting of two thick, curved lines that form the opening of a quote. It is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the background image of a ruler and a floor plan.

We are committed to regional representation, with a strategic focus on engaging with plumbing and gas businesses throughout Queensland. MPAQ builds on the needs of both our members and the wider industry, ensuring that your input is heard.



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Plumbing and Gas Industry Priorities

The Engagement Framework outlines the key positions and priorities for the plumbing and gas industry and what issues matter most to those in the trade. This document provides stakeholders with an overview of the crucial role the plumbing and gas industry plays in protecting the health and safety of the community and the environment.

Master Plumbers' Association of Queensland (MPAQ) is the peak industry body representing plumbing contractors throughout Queensland, from sole operators to medium sized plumbing businesses and large contracting firms.

Our Association has been operating since 1900 and is one of Queensland's most influential trade associations providing the industry with specialised training, advice, and services to effectively strengthen and grow the businesses of our members.

As the only plumbing industry association for Queensland plumbing professionals, MPAQ represents the interests of the plumbing and gas fitting industry at both state and national levels with the vision, commitment, strength, and determination to:

- Be a united voice on plumbing and gas industry issues;
- Provide excellent quality membership services; and
- Promote and recognise outstanding plumbing and gas industry standards whilst simultaneously targeting undesirable plumbing and gas practices.

Our significant membership base means that we have political and lobbying strength, as well as the ability to advocate policy to all key stakeholders. We are also able to highlight the pivotal role those plumbing and gas professionals play in the living standards of all Australians.

We are committed to regional representation, with a strategic focus on engaging with plumbing and gas businesses throughout Queensland. By working from a regional to a state structure, MPAQ is able to build on the needs of both our members and the wider industry, ensuring that their input is heard.

MPAQ continues to grow and expand its membership base throughout Queensland. MPAQ has the largest member numbers compared to its counterparts in other states and territories and is continually growing in numbers each year.



Plumbing, drainage, and gas fitting are essential services. This has been highlighted by the significant impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on Queensland's housing and construction sector, which is a critical employer of skilled tradespeople across the State.

MPAQ also develops and advocates policies recognising the importance of the plumbing industry to all Queenslanders. We steadfastly communicate the views and policies of our industry by actively contributing to enquiries and forums that impact the plumbing sector.

MPAQ has a well-established ambassador program that has been operating since 2015. The Ambassadorship program enables current industry individuals to represent and promote the plumbing and gas industry to future apprentices, the general public, and other business owners.

Delivering on a strategic plan each year that focuses on the Association's key priorities of representation, support, and workforce, the Executive Director of MPAQ reports to the Board at bimonthly meetings. Our Annual General Meeting is also held each year where financials are reported to our members.

Strategic Plan

Strategic Priorities

Representation

Fair regulation and strong advocacy

- Act decisively to resolve industry challenges with the QBCC
- Advocate on important issues affecting the industry.
- Position Master Plumbers as the preferred choice.

Support

Sustainable plumbing businesses

- Support for business success
- Facilitate safe work practice and industry compliance
- Grow an engaged and collaborative plumbing community

Workforce

A skilled workforce

- Drive attraction and retention of quality apprentices
- Retain the current industry workforce
- Grow the future industry workforce

Our Vision

A safe, professional, and successful plumbing industry.

Our Purpose

Advance plumbing businesses

Our Values

- **Innovative** - We embrace change and innovation to help our members, our colleagues, and ourselves.
- **Respect** - We value our people, encourage their development, and reward their performance.
- **Collaboration** - We work collaboratively towards a common purpose and shared goal.
- **Integrity** - We build trust through responsible actions and honest relationships.



Priorities for the Plumbing and Gas Industry

MPAQ called on the current State Government and opposition prior to the last election to support five key priorities for our industry:

- 1** More support for employers to put on apprentices
- 2** Security of Payment laws implemented as noted in the regulation including the removal of unfair terms and conditions in contracts
- 3** Protecting the Renewable Gas Industry
- 4** Roofing and Stormwater to be licensed work
- 5** The industry and QBCC

MPAQ will continue to advocate for these priorities on behalf of the Queensland plumbing, drainage, and gas industry.

PRIORITY

1

More Support for Employers to Take on Apprentices

MPAQ is calling on the State Government to provide more support for employers to take on apprentices. Providing more support for employers to take on apprentices can have significant economic, social, and cultural benefits for Queensland. It can help address skill shortages, boost economic growth, support small businesses, and provide significant social benefits for young people.

Addressing Skill Shortages

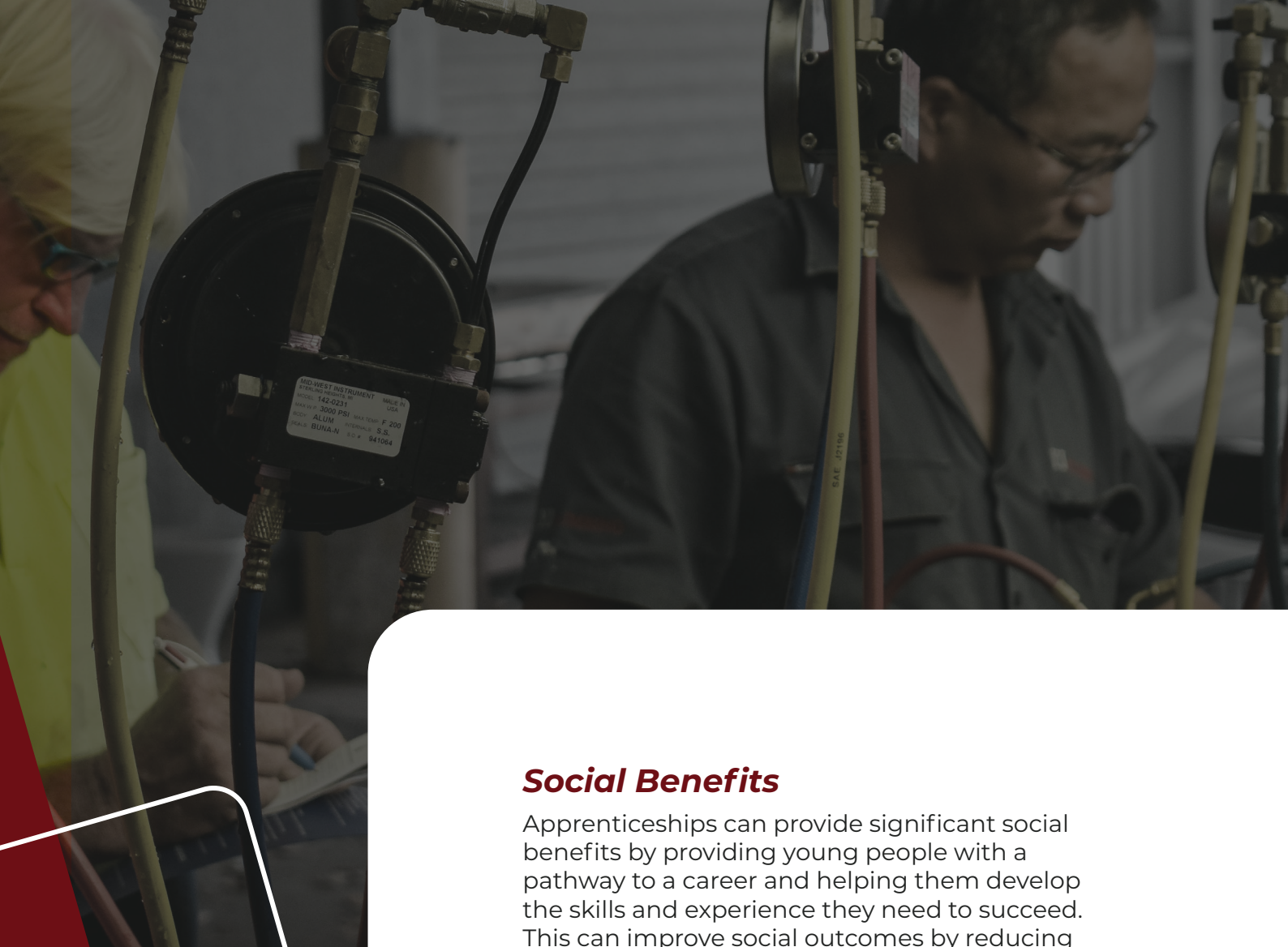
Providing more support for employers to take on apprentices can help address skill shortages in the state. As older workers retire, it is essential to have a new generation of skilled workers to take their place. By supporting apprenticeships, the government can ensure that the state has a skilled workforce that can meet the needs of industry and the broader economy.

Boosting Economic Growth

Apprenticeships can help boost economic growth in Queensland. Apprenticeships provide young people with the skills and experience they need to enter the workforce, which can increase their employment prospects and improve their earning potential. In turn, this can help drive economic growth by increasing the number of skilled workers available to businesses.

Supporting Small Businesses

Small businesses can often struggle to take on apprentices due to the costs involved. By providing more support for apprenticeships, the government can make it easier for small businesses to take on apprentices and benefit from the skills they bring to the business.



Social Benefits

Apprenticeships can provide significant social benefits by providing young people with a pathway to a career and helping them develop the skills and experience they need to succeed. This can improve social outcomes by reducing youth unemployment, promoting social mobility, and improving the overall quality of life for young people in the state.

MPAQ will continue the important work of attracting career seekers to the plumbing and gas fitting trade. The demand for qualified tradespeople in our industry is incredibly high, and one of the best options to grow the available workforce is to have more apprentices undertaking and completing their apprenticeship.

MPAQ will continue to undertake research as to why people may not select this trade as their vocation of choice and look at how it can be promoted better. We will also analyse completion and commencement numbers of apprentices in our trade. Further, we will undertake significant work in participating in attraction events such as career expos and events of a similar nature.



Plumbing Ambassador Program

Through our Plumbing Ambassador program, MPAQ has participated in multiple career expos over the last five years. The opportunity to network and communicate possible career pathways for school leavers, mature aged persons, and career seekers in the industry has proven to be valuable and incredibly important.

This program is an important component for encouraging future generations of men and women to become involved in the plumbing and gas industry, and it will also be a vital resource for the development and sustainability of their careers.

Priorities

1. Encourage career seekers and school students to consider a plumbing apprenticeship
2. Promote the importance of business owners training apprentices for the future

As well as advocating for additional financial support for businesses employing apprentices, MPAQ is also pushing for mentoring programs.



Providing more support for employers to take on apprentices can have significant economic, social, and cultural benefits for Queensland. It can help address skill shortages, boost economic growth, support small businesses, and provide significant social benefits for young people.

PRIORITY

2

Security of Payments

Every plumber in Queensland has been impacted by non-payment. MPAQ believes all trade contractors must be paid in full and on time for the work they do. The impact non-payment has on businesses, families, and communities can be horrific. MPAQ is strongly supportive of security of payment reforms to ensure the culture changes within the building and construction industry.

Security of payments for subcontractors in Queensland is important for several reasons:

Financial Stability

Subcontractors rely on payments from contractors to maintain financial stability and meet their own obligations, such as paying their employees, purchasing materials, and covering other business expenses. Without security of payments, subcontractors may not receive timely payments, which can lead to financial difficulties, including insolvency or bankruptcy.

Supporting the Construction Industry

Security of payments is essential for the continued growth and success of the construction industry in Queensland. Without it, subcontractors may be hesitant to take on new projects, and contractors may have difficulty finding subcontractors willing to work with them. This can lead to delays in construction projects and increased costs for all parties involved.

Fairness and Equity

Security of payments ensures that subcontractors are paid fairly and on time for the work they have completed. This is essential for ensuring fairness and equity in the construction industry and protecting smaller subcontractors from exploitation by larger contractors.

Protection Against Payment Disputes

Payment disputes can arise in any construction project, but without security of payments, subcontractors may be left with no recourse to recover payments owed to them. Security of payments helps protect subcontractors from payment disputes and provides a clear framework for resolving disputes that do arise.

Economic Benefits

The construction industry is a significant contributor to the economy of Queensland, and security of payments for subcontractors can help support this industry and its contribution to the State's economy. It can also help create more jobs and stimulate economic growth by ensuring that subcontractors are paid promptly and can reinvest in their businesses.

Contracts

MPAQ supports the removal of all unfair and unjust clauses. Unfair and unjust clauses should be removed from terms and conditions in contracts between builders and subcontractors. Contracts should reflect fairness and equity in their terms. Unfair and unjust clauses can create an imbalance of power and unfairly disadvantage subcontractors. Removing such clauses ensures that subcontractors are treated fairly, and their rights are protected. Contracts should establish a foundation of trust and cooperation between builders and subcontractors. Unfair and unjust clauses can strain these relationships and create a confrontational atmosphere. Removing such clauses encourages open communication, collaboration, and a more positive working relationship between the parties. Contracts with unfair and unjust clauses can lead to legal disputes, delays, and costly litigation. Removing these clauses reduces the risk of legal complications and promotes smoother project execution. It also saves time and resources that would otherwise be spent on resolving disputes, allowing both builders and subcontractors to focus on their core activities.

PRIORITY **3** **Protecting the Renewable Gas Industry**

The renewable gas industry is important in Queensland for several reasons:

Diversification of Energy Sources

Queensland, like many other regions, heavily relies on fossil fuels for its energy needs. By supporting a renewable gas industry, the state can diversify its energy sources and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. This diversification enhances energy security and helps mitigate the risks associated with relying on a single energy type. The renewable gas industry can contribute significantly to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. By producing and utilising renewable gases such as biomethane or hydrogen, Queensland can lower its carbon footprint and make progress towards its emission reduction targets. This is crucial in combating climate change and transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

Queensland has abundant renewable energy resources, including solar and wind. However, intermittency and variability are challenges associated with these sources. The renewable gas industry offers a potential solution by enabling the conversion and storage of renewable gas to make electricity. These gases can be stored and utilised when renewable energy supply is low, thereby facilitating better integration of renewable energy into the grid.

Economic Growth

Developing a robust renewable gas industry can create economic opportunities in Queensland. It can lead to the establishment of new industries, job creation, and investments in research and development. The growth of the renewable gas sector can attract private investments and stimulate economic growth while providing a sustainable source of energy.

Vast Resources

Queensland has vast agricultural, forestry, and waste resources that can be harnessed to produce renewable

gases. Developing a renewable gas industry in the state can support regional development by creating new value chains and utilising local resources. This can contribute to energy independence, reduce reliance on imported fuels, and promote local economic development. It also provides consumers with choice, reliability, and affordability when it comes meeting their energy needs while also bringing down our emissions.

Decarbonisation, Not Electrification

We will need all the tools in our toolkit to deliver net zero while maintaining choice in our energy system for consumers. It is important not to pick winners or close the door on options that can be a part of the solution. Our goal is decarbonisation, not electrification. Gas networks provide significant value to consumers and there is a clear decarbonisation pathway to 2050 with the deployment of renewable gas. Using infrastructure that consumers have already invested in to meet decarbonisation goals makes good economic sense. Continued utilisation of our gas networks with increasing blends of renewable gas can help rationalise the scale of an electricity sector transition to Variable Renewable Energy and hedge against timeline/supply chain slippage for the build out of renewable electricity.

Pushing homes to electrify faster than renewables can enter the grid increases the reliance and demand for emissions intensive coal fired energy. A multifaceted approach better ensures we meet emissions reduction targets and maximise energy security. Industry is already delivering domestic renewable gas projects today, with many gas distribution networks capable of carrying 100% hydrogen in the near-term. We need to ensure renewable gas to be developed and adopted as the way forward.

Commercial and Export Potential

Queensland has significant potential to be a global epicentre for hydrogen production and deployment. A domestic market for hydrogen will build scale and capability in hydrogen for export and unlock energy market synergies. Domestic offtakes – both industry and residential deployment - can support the commercial scale up required for an export industry, while demonstrating the use-case to target markets. Our industries also need to be positioned to take advantage of hydrogen to remain competitive – and residential deployment maximises economies of scale for industry.



Queensland's Hydrogen Strategy

The development of a hydrogen strategy for Queensland involves a comprehensive plan to establish the state as a major player in the global hydrogen economy. The strategy encompasses a range of policies, initiatives, and investments aimed at supporting the development of a robust and sustainable hydrogen industry in Queensland.

Proposed Strategy

- 1. Establishing clear vision and goals:** Articulate a clear vision for Queensland's hydrogen industry, along with specific goals and targets, including targets for the production, export, and use of hydrogen within the state, as well as targets for reducing emissions from the energy sector.
- 2. Developing a regulatory framework:** A supportive regulatory framework will be critical to the success of the hydrogen industry. This includes the development of clear regulations around hydrogen production, transportation, storage, and use, as well as policies to incentivise investment in hydrogen infrastructure and technology.
- 3. Investing in hydrogen infrastructure:** Invest in the development of hydrogen infrastructure, including production facilities, pipelines, and storage facilities. This involves working with industry partners to establish new facilities, as well as retrofitting existing infrastructure to support hydrogen production and use.
- 4. Building industry partnerships:** Collaboration with industry partners will be critical to the success of the hydrogen strategy. This involves working with companies in the energy, transport, and manufacturing sectors to develop new applications for hydrogen, as well as partnerships with international players to establish Queensland as a key player in the global hydrogen economy.
- 5. Supporting research and development:** Queensland has a strong research and development ecosystem, and this should be leveraged to support the development of new hydrogen technologies and applications. This involves establishing partnerships with universities and research institutions to support research into hydrogen production, storage, and use, as well as funding programs to support the commercialisation of new technologies.



Consumer Awareness

Creating a consumer awareness campaign about the use of hydrogen is important for several reasons:

- 1. Build understanding:** Hydrogen is a relatively new and unfamiliar energy source for many consumers. A consumer awareness campaign can help educate people about the benefits of hydrogen, how it is produced, and how it can be used in different applications.
- 2. Increase demand:** Creating awareness about the use of hydrogen can help increase demand for hydrogen products and services. This can create a market for hydrogen, help spur investment in the development of hydrogen infrastructure and technologies, and reduce the carbon footprint.
- 3. Drive innovation:** A consumer awareness campaign can also help drive innovation in the hydrogen industry. By increasing the demand for hydrogen products and services, companies will be motivated to develop new and better technologies to meet that demand.
- 4. Support government policy:** The Queensland Government are investing in hydrogen as part of its energy transition plans. A consumer awareness campaign can help support these policies by increasing public awareness and understanding of the benefits of hydrogen.
- 5. Address concerns:** There are also concerns among some consumers about the safety and practicality of using hydrogen. A consumer awareness campaign can help address these concerns by providing accurate information about the safety and reliability of hydrogen technologies.

Hydrogen Home

MPAQ and two leading industry Australian companies are looking to build Queensland's first 100% hydrogen domestic home. The three parties are committed to delivering on this project; however, we are aware that local councils have been a roadblock to allowing projects to progress. A practical demonstration of a normal domestic residence utilising this green renewable hydrogen would be a magnificent way to demonstrate how safe this renewable energy source will be when placed in a public environment.

There are several potential benefits of having a hydrogen house in Queensland, including:

- 1. Reduced greenhouse gas emissions:** Hydrogen is a clean-burning fuel that does not produce any greenhouse gas emissions when it is burned. By using hydrogen to power a home, homeowners can significantly reduce their carbon footprint and contribute to the fight against climate change.
- 2. Energy independence:** Queensland has abundant renewable energy resources, such as solar and wind power, which can be used to produce hydrogen through electrolysis. By producing their own hydrogen on-site, homeowners can become more energy independent and reduce their reliance on traditional energy sources.
- 3. Energy storage:** Hydrogen can also be used as a means of energy storage, allowing homeowners to store excess energy generated by their solar panels or wind turbines. This can help to address the issue of intermittency, which can occur when renewable energy sources are not consistently available.
- 4. Energy efficiency:** Hydrogen fuel cells are highly efficient and can convert a high percentage of the energy in the fuel into electricity. This can result in lower energy bills and a more efficient use of resources.
- 5. Innovation and investment:** As a relatively new and developing technology, hydrogen presents an opportunity for innovation and investment in Queensland. By embracing hydrogen technology and developing a hydrogen house, homeowners can help to drive investment in the industry and contribute to the growth of a new and important sector of the economy.



Training and Upskilling for Working with Hydrogen

MPAQ has been involved in the training package review, which we support for new apprentices coming through. We also believe training is required to upskill the existing plumbers and gas fitters. Upskilling plumbers and gasfitters to work with hydrogen is important for several reasons:

- 1. Safety:** Hydrogen has different properties compared to natural gas, which means that it requires a different set of skills and knowledge to work with safely. Upskilling plumbers and gasfitters will ensure that they are aware of the differences in handling, storage, and transportation of hydrogen to mitigate the risk of accidents or incidents.
- 2. Regulatory compliance:** As hydrogen is a relatively new energy source, there are likely to be new regulations and codes of practice that plumbers and gasfitters will need to be aware of. Upskilling will ensure that they are up-to-date with the latest regulatory requirements and can comply with any new standards.
- 3. Meeting demand:** As the demand for hydrogen infrastructure increases, there will be a growing need for skilled tradespeople who can install, maintain, and repair hydrogen equipment. Upskilling plumbers and gasfitters will help to ensure that there is a sufficient workforce to meet this demand.
- 4. Future-proofing:** Hydrogen is expected to play an increasingly important role in the energy sector, and it is likely that many existing gas networks will be repurposed to carry hydrogen in the coming years. Upskilling plumbers and gasfitters now will help to future-proof the industry and ensure that there is a skilled workforce that is ready to adapt to new technologies and practices.

Specifying Gas at the Construction Stage

MPAQ is advocating for new housing estates and commercial buildings to specify gas at the construction stage. As the use of hydrogen becomes more and more acceptable, there will be buildings in Queensland that have no infrastructure to use this green resource. It will be too expensive to retrofit the building to use hydrogen so these buildings will be disadvantaged through the poor planning we are currently accepting. The decision to provide new homes with access to natural gas depends on a range of factors, including local energy policies, environmental concerns, and the availability of alternative energy sources. Here are some reasons why new homes should be provided with access to natural gas if available:

- 1. Reliability:** Natural gas is a reliable energy source that can provide a consistent and stable supply of energy to homes. This can be particularly important in areas where other energy sources may be less reliable, such as during extreme weather events.
- 2. Affordability:** In most areas, natural gas can be a less expensive option than other energy sources, such as electricity or propane. It is an excellent partner to solar panels, as it will power hot water and heating when there is no daylight.
- 3. Energy security:** Natural gas is a domestic energy source that is widely available within many countries. This can provide a level of energy security, as homeowners are not reliant on imported energy sources.
- 4. Comfort:** Natural gas can provide a high level of comfort for homeowners, particularly when it comes to heating and cooking. Gas appliances are often more efficient than electric appliances, which can lead to lower energy bills and improved comfort levels.



mPAQ is advocating for new housing estates and commercial buildings to specify gas at the construction stage. Opportunities should be considered for gas to be specified in all government buildings so that in the future hydrogen can be utilised as its primary energy source. This will reduce the carbon footprint of the building.

PRIORITY

4

Stormwater and Roofing Licensing

Stormwater work refers to the construction, installation, repair, and maintenance of stormwater control systems, which are designed to manage the flow of rainwater and runoff.

Currently, stormwater, including underground work can be performed by an unlicensed person as it is not classified as plumbing or drainage work, falling under the banner of building work. Stormwater defects can contribute to significant costs for homeowners, building owners, and industry. MPAQ believes the lack of regulation and licensing surrounding the installation of stormwater systems have been overlooked for far too long and should fall under the umbrella of plumbing and drainage.

Here are some reasons why stormwater work should be captured under licensed plumbing work in Queensland:

- 1. Quality Assurance:** Licensing stormwater work ensures that the work is carried out by qualified and skilled plumbing and drainage professionals who are knowledgeable about industry standards, regulations, and best practices. This can help ensure that the work is of high quality, which can help prevent issues such as flooding, erosion, and water pollution.
- 2. Safety:** Stormwater work can be hazardous, particularly when carried out in high-risk areas. Licensing ensures that only properly trained and qualified persons are carrying out the work, reducing the risk of accidents and injuries.
- 3. Consumer Protection:** Licensing stormwater work provides consumers with protection against unscrupulous or unqualified individuals. The licensing process ensures that contractors have met certain requirements, such as insurance, financial stability, and relevant experience, which can help protect consumers against sub-standard work, fraud, and other issues.
- 4. Compliance:** Regulation of stormwater work helps ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Licensed contractors are familiar with the relevant laws and regulations and can ensure that work is carried out in compliance with these requirements.
- 5. Professionalism:** Regulation of stormwater work encourages professionalism within the industry. Licensed contractors are required to adhere to ethical and professional standards and are held accountable for their work.
- 6. Training:** Plumbers undertake a four-year apprenticeship to acquire a unique suite of skills that include roofing and stormwater installation, design, and maintenance.

STORMWATER

Roofing work refers to the construction, repair, and maintenance of roofs, which are critical components of buildings, protecting them from the elements and maintaining a safe and comfortable living environment. Here are some reasons why roofing work should be licensed in Queensland:

- 1. Quality Assurance:** Regulating roofing work ensures that the work is carried out by qualified and skilled professionals who are knowledgeable about industry standards, regulations, and best practices. This can help ensure that the work is of high quality, which can help prevent issues such as leaks, structural damage, and safety hazards.
- 2. Safety:** Roofing work can be hazardous, particularly when carried out at heights or on steeply pitched roofs. Licensing ensures that only properly trained and qualified professionals are carrying out the work, reducing the risk of accidents and injuries.
- 3. Consumer Protection:** Regulating roofing work provides consumers with protection against unscrupulous or unqualified contractors. The licensing process ensures that contractors have met certain requirements, such as insurance, financial stability, and relevant experience, which can help protect consumers against sub-standard work, fraud, and other issues.
- 4. Compliance:** Regulating roofing work helps ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Licensed contractors are familiar with the relevant laws and regulations and can ensure that work is carried out in compliance with these requirements.
- 5. Professionalism:** Regulating roofing work encourages professionalism within the industry. Licensed contractors are required to adhere to ethical and professional standards and are held accountable for their work.
- 6. Training:** Plumbers undertake a four-year apprenticeship to acquire a unique suite of skills that include roofing and stormwater installation, design, and maintenance.

PRIORITY

5

The Industry and QBCC

The Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) is a statutory authority in Queensland responsible for regulating the building and construction industry. This includes issuing licenses to tradespeople, investigating complaints about building and plumbing work, and ensuring compliance with relevant legislation. In recent years, there has been some criticism from some plumbers and other licensees in Queensland about the QBCC's handling of licensing and regulation. Some have argued that the QBCC's licensing requirements are too strict and can be difficult and expensive to obtain. Others have raised concerns about the QBCC's enforcement of regulations, claiming that it can be inconsistent or unfair. The relationship between plumbers and the QBCC is likely to be complex and nuanced, with differing opinions and experiences among individuals and groups. However, in a survey of the industry conducted by MPAQ in 2023, 92 per cent of respondents indicated a preference establishing a plumbing specific body responsible for occupational and contractor licensing.

We recognise that establishing a separate body falls beyond the QBCC's authority and this is a matter for the Department. MPAQ seeks to collaborate with the QBCC and provide our members with updates on collaborative efforts benefiting our industry.

As an Association deeply invested in the welfare of our members, MPAQ places significant value on feedback received from our esteemed members. It has become evident that our members are profoundly impacted by the regulations and practices set forth by the QBCC. Through meticulous member surveys, specific areas of concern have been illuminated, ranging from operational challenges to strategic misalignments.


One of the paramount concerns voiced by our members revolves around the lack of compliance and enforcement, particularly regarding unlicensed individuals. This leniency not only poses challenges for law-abiding contractors but also undermines the integrity of the industry.

Operational challenges have compounded the difficulties faced by licensed professionals. Furthermore, considerations surrounding the Notifiable Works system, licence applications, and regional representation have emphasised the necessity for a review.

In response to these multifaceted concerns, MPAQ is committed to spearheading initiatives aimed at addressing industry challenges collaboratively with the QBCC. Proposed solutions include expanding job opportunities for qualified individuals, enhancing licensee perception through public campaigns, and streamlining communication channels.

Restoring industry trust requires a concerted effort addressing responsiveness, consistency, and transparency. MPAQ stands ready to actively participate in this endeavour, providing evidence-based feedback and fostering collaboration between stakeholders.

As we embark on this journey focussed on our industry, open dialogue and collaboration are integral to effecting positive change and we look forward to working closely with the QBCC for the betterment of our industry.



Bring plumbing industry employment legislation into line with standard business practices

There are shortfalls in current employment legislation in Australia relating to redundancy in the plumbing industry which is unfair to those running plumbing and gasfitting businesses. They fall short of standard business practice and are uncompetitive for our profession.

Under current minimum entitlements, a plumbing business is liable to pay for redundancy under a very wide range of circumstances. Employers already do and should remain liable to pay for genuine redundancies, but the scope for these payments must be brought into line with standard business practice.



Home Warranty Scheme

Home warranty insurance protects homeowners against incomplete or defective work or where there is subsidence. It must be paid for all insurable residential construction work with a market value of over \$3,300.

All contractors carrying out residential construction work directly with consumers, to a value exceeding \$3,300, must pay a premium to the QBCC under the Queensland Home Warranty Scheme. The \$3,300 value must include GST and the value of all building materials as if the materials were supplied by the contractor, even if this is not the case. Payment is not restricted to builders. Any contractor who carries out insurable work directly for a consumer must pay a premium. The only exceptions are licensees working as subcontractors for a principal contractor or working for a person who holds an Owner Builder Permit for the relevant construction.

It is a requirement under the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991, that a contractor pay the appropriate premium to the QBCC, as soon as practicable after entering a contract with a consumer to carry out residential construction work in Queensland. Contractors can be fined up to 100 penalty units if the insurance premium is not paid in accordance with the legislation.



Implementing Continuing Professional Development Program

Continuing professional development (CPD) is essential for plumbing and gas professionals to maintain and enhance their skills and knowledge throughout their careers. There are several reasons why bringing CPD to Queensland would be beneficial:

Improving Professional Standards

CPD can help improve professional standards in Queensland by ensuring that plumbers, drainers, and gasfitters stay up to date with the latest developments in their field. This can help improve the quality of services provided by licensed persons and enhance their reputation in the community.

Meeting Industry Requirements

Many other industries require professionals to undertake CPD to maintain their licence. Bringing CPD to Queensland's plumbing, drainage, and gas industry would help ensure licensed persons in the State can meet a set of industry requirements to continue to practice their profession to the highest standard.

Keeping Up with Technological Advances

As technology continues to evolve, plumbers must keep up with the latest advancements to remain relevant and effective in their roles. CPD can help ensure that professionals in Queensland are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to keep up with these advances.

Enhancing Career Development

CPD can help plumbers enhance their career development by providing them with new skills and knowledge. This can lead to increased job satisfaction, better employment prospects, and higher earning potential.

Promoting Lifelong Learning

CPD promotes the idea of lifelong learning, which is essential in today's rapidly changing work environment. By encouraging licensees to continue learning throughout their careers, CPD can help ensure that they remain relevant and effective in their roles.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:



CALL US ON 07 3273 0800



VISIT WWW.MPAQ.COM.AU