

Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State  
The Honourable Paul Lucas  
15/02/2012

**Red tape slashed for plumbing approvals saving time and money**

Home renovators and people extending their homes will be one step closer to saving time and money on plumbing after major amendments to the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 (PDA) were passed in parliament today.

Local Government Minister Paul Lucas said the aim of the Act was to cut red tape, reduce compliance costs and eliminate time wasting.

"Plumbing can be one of the most expensive components of renovations that a homeowner can incur," Mr Lucas said.

"These amendments will enable homeowners to save money and time by widening the range of works that will no longer require council assessment or inspection, known as notifiable works.

"We have listened to industry which has been concerned about the degree of over-regulation.

"The amendments will apply to additional plumbing work in existing homes, including renovations like a new bathroom or ensuite or a kitchen."

Mr Lucas said that estimates had shown significant savings could be made for both councils and homeowners.

"Previously, plumbers and drainers had to obtain a permit costing anywhere from \$300 to \$1,600 from their local government before starting work, adding up to 28 working days to each job," he said.

"Now plumbers will have to notify the Plumbing Industry Council within 10 business days of completion.

"Councils will be able to focus on carrying out inspections when new houses are built on more complex matters ensuring plumbing is done right the first time.

"Notifiable work will have a small fee associated with the lodgement of the forms to ensure the system is properly audited to protect consumers and keep standards high."

Minister Lucas said this small fee will, in most cases, be a large saving when compared to the former application costs with possible savings between \$300 and \$1600.

"It is expected that local governments and the PIC will work together to monitor compliance levels and to direct auditing processes." Mr Lucas said.

"Work that still requires a permit will be known as 'compliance assessable work' and will apply to all new buildings when they are first connected to water or sewer infrastructure. "Standards will still need to be upheld with the PIC notified of any works, self assessment carried out and local governments continuing to play a role in audit programs.

"Ultimately the amendments to the PDA empower plumbers and drainers to perform work they are qualified to undertake, without unnecessary oversight, delay or cost."

For more information on the amendments visit

[www.dlgp.qld.gov.au/plumbing/notifiable-work-proposal.html](http://www.dlgp.qld.gov.au/plumbing/notifiable-work-proposal.html)

Or e-mail [buildingcodes@dlgp.qld.gov.au](mailto:buildingcodes@dlgp.qld.gov.au) or call 3239 6369

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