

1/09/2020

SUBMISSION INTO TASWATER OPERATIONS

Unfortunately any dealings with TasWater are rarely positive, as we deal with plumbers and permit applicants, we get to see the negative impact that TasWater policies and/or operations can have on day to day business running and/or Building/Plumbing Permits.

From a regulated body perspective we find certain policies to be obstructive to the operation of our role as a regulatory officer, such as:

- Suppling information.
- Investigating issues.
- Reporting back on issues.
- Finding and/or suppling updated information in regards to public water/sewer mains.
- Accepting responsibility for infrastructure not previously recorded.(*i.e. existing sewer mains*)

Certificate for Certifiable Work

We believe the structure of the TasWater *Certificate for Certifiable Work* needs to be looked at, there are far too many plumbing permits that do not get signed off because the applicant is just an agent or designer and they believe their responsibility ends when the permit is issued.

Certificate of Water and Sewerage Compliance.

There should be an amendment in the act to include persons other than the owner or plumber to be responsible for the application of the *Certificate of Water and Sewerage Compliance*.

Also a time frame should be included for when the *Certificate of Water and Sewerage Compliance* is to be issued as I don't think this is clear in the act.

Trade Waste

In regards to trade waste we believe TasWater at times act outside their area of jurisdiction, there needs to be a definition of where there responsibility starts and ends when it comes to Grease Arrestors. At times there have been changes in their policies

that they cannot or will not explain and can be at conflict with the Plumbing Standards or Plumbing Code.

Backflow

The TasWater requirements for backflow protection of their water mains can add unnecessary costs to some developments, the Plumbing Standards already provide enough conditions to ensure that any water mains whether public or private are protected.

Shane Pritchard
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