

# Queensland Legislative Changes 2020 - 2021

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AND CURRENT COUNCIL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

# Queensland Plumbing Legislation

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The Queensland Plumbing Act was completely rewritten in 2018 to align more closely with the National Construction Code.

The current plumbing legislation in Queensland consists of:

- Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018
- Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019
- Plumbing and Wastewater Code 2019

These documents cover sanitary and water supply systems in Queensland and generally reflect AS/NZS 3500.

# Plumbing & Drainage Act, Regulation & Code

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The Plumbing and Drainage Act, Regulation and Code all work together to regulate the plumbing industry in Queensland.

**Plumbing and Drainage Act** regulates the carrying out of plumbing and drainage by requiring a licencing scheme (maintained by the QBCC), requiring work to be carried out in compliance with relevant Codes and establishes a framework for approving plumbing work (maintained by Local Government).

**Plumbing and Drainage Regulation** details the various plumbing licences, the type of work a licenced person can undertake and specific laws to ensure work is compliant.

**Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code** sets out the technical requirements for plumbing and drainage.

# Stormwater Drainage

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The design of stormwater systems falls under the Volume 1 of the National Construction Code.

The Building Code of Australia, Clause F1.1 Stormwater Drainage, simply says it must comply with AS/NZS 3500.3.

In Queensland, the design of building stormwater systems falls under Hydraulic Consultants scope of work.

The design of site drainage and trunk drainage is required to be undertaken by Registered Professional Engineer Queensland (RPEQ) civil engineers. This forms part of the Stormwater Management Plan submitted to Council as part of the DA.

# Legislative Changes/Clarifications

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While the rewriting of the Plumbing and Drainage Act, Regulation and Code did not have a major impact on the design of plumbing and fire protection systems, there have been some recent changes and/or clarifications that have come in recently.

These changes/clarifications are issued as “Newsflashes”.

The link to these newsflashes is:

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/building-property-development/building-construction/news/building-plumbing-newsflash>

This link covers both building and plumbing work.

# Newsflashes

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Some of the more recent and important Newsflashes involving plumbing are as follows:

- 586 Use of plastic pipe materials around hot water units. This also includes a link on the “Requirements for Installing temperature control devices” guideline.
- 585 Plumbing connecting to temporary facilities. Generally referring to builder’s sheds and the requirement for designs to be produced and submitted under a Form 1.
- 584 New fire protection licencing framework. While not impacting on those Hydraulic Consultants already licenced, new licencees will only be permitted to design domestic fire sprinkler systems unless they undertake further training.
- 569 Clarification on requirement for a site classification report which forms part of our Form 1 submission and articulation design. It also covers the procedure for when a site classification report is not available.

# Council Plumbing Submission

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In Queensland plumbing design work is predominantly carried out under a Form 1.

Council requires:

- A full set of hydraulic plans showing all hydraulic systems (excluding stormwater)
- Completed Form 1
- Water and Sewer connection approvals (provided by Civil Engineer)
- Articulation design and report
- Soil Classification (provided by Geotechnical Engineer)
- Trade Waste approval (if Water Authority separate to Council)
- Applicable Fees

Council will assess and then issue a Plumbing Permit. This together with a Form 7 (notifying the Council who the plumbing contractor is) allows work to start on site.

# QBCC or RPEQ

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State legislation requires persons designing plumbing systems to be either:

- QBCC licenced
- RPEQ Engineer

Most Hydraulic Consultants are QBCC licenced or practise under a licenced Consultant.

There are a number of Hydraulic Consultants that have engineering qualifications and use RPEQ for signing off documentation.

# Form 15 Design Certificate

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When a Plumbing Permit is issued by Council, it covers all component of the hydraulic services deign except for:

- Stormwater
- Fire hydrants and hose reels
- Gas
- Energy efficiency
- etc.

The Certifier requires a Form 15 Design Certificate from a hydraulic consultant for anything not covered by the Council's Permit.

At the completion of the installation, the plumber issues a Form 16.

# Miscellaneous Bits and Pieces

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Some more recent issues Hydraulic Consultants have been dealing with can be summarized as follows:

- Councils requiring Performance Solutions for any minor deviation from Codes.
- The venting of Saniflo pump systems – Councils not accepting charcoal filters off the unit and requiring a Performance solution submitted.
- Reactive soils – we are formulating a one day training course on this issue.
- Trade waste and the FFOG Guidelines and other design criteria.
- QBCC mandating CPD to maintain licence and about to introduce a pilot program prior to full implementation.

Thank you !

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