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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Enquiries: Jean Villani (08) 9282 4371

6 February 2008

Mr Murray Thomas

Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association (MPA)
PO Box 126
MAYLANDS WA 6931

Dear Mr Thomas

Murray

RESTRICTED LICENSING FOR THE PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL TRADES

Thank you for your letter dated 23 January 2008 advising that the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association of WA has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the National Electrical Communications Association (NECA). I am sure the initiative will improve relations between the electrical and plumbing trades resulting in longer term benefits for consumers.

While I appreciate that the memorandum of understanding highlights as a priority the need to address the issues of restricted licences, at its meeting on 21 January 2008 the Board set its priorities for the coming year. The issue of restricted plumbing permits that will enable licensed electricians to carry out the limited plumbing work associated with a hot water unit replacement was highlighted as an issue for the Board but was given a very low priority with no completion date set.

As you are aware, the Board has been attempting to address the issue of restricted licences for some time. The plumbing industry has strongly opposed the establishment of a restricted permit, with correspondence from the MPA supporting this overall position. Lobbying from members and stakeholders of the electrical industry to establish such a permit has also ceased. It is these views that have been taken into consideration by the Board in setting the priority for this project.

The Board has set an ambitious target to be achieved during the 2008 year. The issue of restricted licences will continue to be pursued but will remain a low priority over the coming year as concerns associated with the proposed Building Commission, sustainability and plumbing trade training are addressed as a matter of urgency for the Board.

As a member of the restricted plumbing permit working group the MPA will continue to participate and be kept informed of progress of the establishment of the restricted permit.

Should you wish to discuss this issue further please do not hesitate to contact me on (08) 9282 4371 or on my mobile 0427 087 942.

Yours sincerely



Jean Villani
Executive Officer