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ELIZABETH QUAY DEBACLE HIGHLIGHTS POTENTIAL DISASTER

ISSUES plaguing the State Government over the recent Elizabeth Quay water park health scare are just the tip of the iceberg in regards to potential water supply issues around the State, according to the CEO of the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association.

Murray Thomas, who heads up the State's industry association for the plumbing trade, said the MPGA understood work was carried out by a Queensland-based civil contractor, not a licensed plumber, and that may have been responsible for the water contamination issues that led to the water park being closed soon after opening.

"If any of the tasks involved connecting to a metered drinking water supply, or to the sanitary drainage system, by law all work should have been carried out by a plumbing contractor licensed in WA," Mr Thomas said.

"All work must be certified with a compliance certificate and forwarded to the Building Commission with a detailed sanitary drainage diagram.

"We don't know yet if this applies in this case but often when water becomes contaminated, inadequate backflow prevention or incorrect connection between clean and wastewater pipes is involved."

Mr Thomas said the issue provided a timely reminder to State Government that WA's plumbing regulations and standards needed to be protected. His call comes as the MPGA continues to lobby the Minister for Commerce and Building Commission over recommendations in a report released in 2013 that called for the relaxation of some plumbing regulations.

"We're saving lives and protecting public health and safety here, not selling potatoes," Mr Thomas said. "The MPGA is strongly opposed to any moves to relax regulations just because it might be deemed to provide faster or cheaper service.

"The Elizabeth Quay example certainly shows that when things go wrong, there's nothing fast or cheap about it."

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Media Contacts

Spoke Public Relations

Luke Derbyshire

+61 488 664 246

Simon Shepherdson

+61 413 809 404



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