

## Industry Bulletin 165

# Expanded scope of water supply plumbing work commencing 10 February 2025

***This industry bulletin is to alert the plumbing industry of changes to the Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards Regulations 2000 (the Regulations) which expand the scope of regulated water supply plumbing work in Western Australia (WA).***

Water supply plumbing work under the Regulations is currently limited to 'potable water from a meter assembly'. Metered water supplies generally relate to water provided by water services providers such as the Water Corporation. The scope of water supply plumbing work will be expanded to include work connecting to non-metered water supplies such as rainwater storage, mine-site water supplies and water supplies serving remote Aboriginal communities.

**From 10 February 2025**, water supply plumbing work defined in the Regulations must only be carried out by a licensed plumber or permit holder – regardless of the water supply system to which it connects.

### New definitions of 'water supply system' from 10 February 2025

New defined terms in Regulation 3 will describe the systems that water supply plumbing connects to. The installation or maintenance of water supply plumbing that connects to any type of water supply system will be regulated plumbing work.

#### Definitions

##### Water supply system

A water supply system means –

- a. a water supply service of a water services provider; or
- b. an alternative water supply system.

##### Alternative water supply system

- a. means a system for the supply of water that is not a water supply service of a water services provider; and
- b. includes –
  - i. a system by which an exempted provider supplies water;
  - ii. a private rainwater storage, bore or recycled water supply system; and
  - iii. a water tank supplied with carted water.

### Revised definition of 'water supply plumbing work' from 10 February 2025

The revised definition of water supply plumbing work will expand the scope of regulated work by removing the restrictive reference to the supply of 'potable water through a meter assembly' from the definition.

The point of discharge will be expressly defined to make it clear that regulated water supply plumbing work ends or discharges – at the point where industrial or specialised services or equipment connect to water supply plumbing. Normal points of discharge such as outlets over fixtures continue to apply.

## Definitions

### Water supply plumbing work

is the installation, replacement, alteration, connection, disconnection, repair, testing, commissioning or maintenance of pipes, materials or components used or intended to be used for the supply of water from a 'water supply system' to a point of discharge.

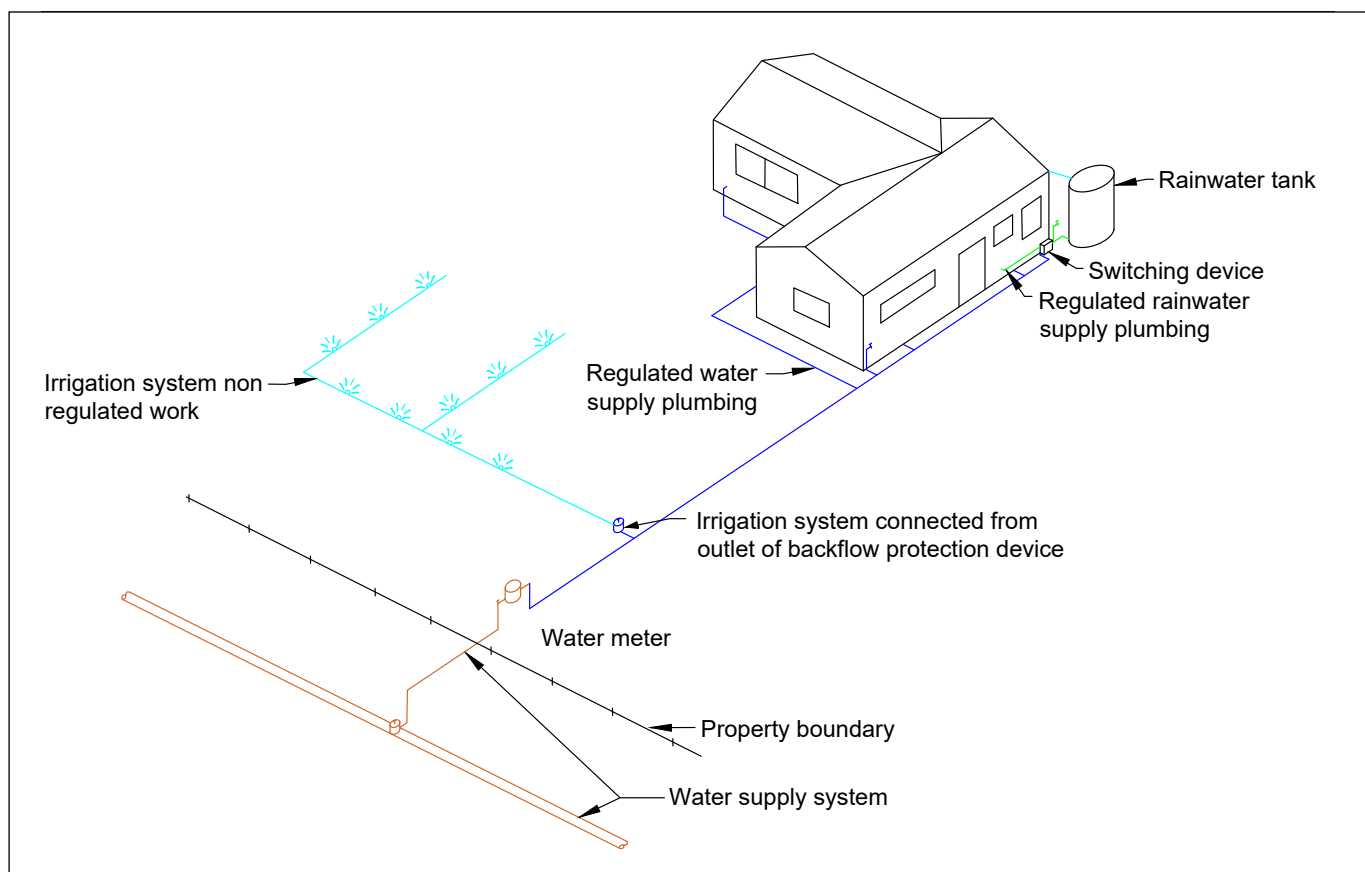
### Point of discharge

includes the outlet of a backflow prevention device that, under the plumbing standards, is required to connect an industrial or specialised service (including a fire service, irrigation service or heating, ventilation or air-conditioning system) to water supply plumbing.

## Exclusions

**Water supply plumbing work** does not include the following –

- a. exempt work<sup>1</sup>;
- b. the installation or replacement of a meter if the meter is owned and operated by a water services provider or exempted provider and the installation or replacement can be done without the need to carry out work on the pipes associated with the meter;
- c. work in relation to the internal components of a water heater; and
- d. work that –
  - i. involves a product certified under WaterMark Technical Specification WMTS-050; and
  - ii. would, but for this paragraph, be modular plumbing work.



**Diagram – Scope of regulated water supply plumbing work**

<sup>1</sup> Exempt work means work carried out by or on behalf of a water services provider in connection with the undertaking, maintenance or operation of water services works of the water services provider.

## Applicable Australian Standards

Regulation 48 of the Regulations calls up relevant parts of the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA) as the primary plumbing standards that apply to plumbing and plumbing work in WA. In relation to water supply plumbing work, Regulation 48 currently calls up **Parts B1 Cold water services, B2 Heated water services, B5 Cross-connection control** and **Specification 41-Cross connection hazards**.

From 10 February 2025 Regulation 48 will also call up **Part B3 Non-drinking water services** and **Part B6 Rainwater services** as those parts apply to the expanded scope of water supply plumbing work.

The PCA in turn calls up the **AS/NZS 3500 Plumbing and Drainage series** as the deemed-to-satisfy standards that plumbing work must be carried out to. Deemed-to-satisfy standards that relate to the expanded scopes of work include the following sections of **AS/NZS 3500.1:2021**:

1. Section 9: Non-drinking water services; and
2. Section 15: Installation of water supply system from rainwater tanks.

Explanatory diagrams to assist understanding of regulated work can be found on the [Building and Energy website](#).

## New restricted plumbing permit for rainwater installers from 10 February 2025

**From 10 February 2025** unlicensed rainwater tank installers who currently carry out water supply plumbing work connected to rainwater tanks will be eligible to apply for a restricted plumbing permit (rainwater storage) allowing them to continue performing such work.

The permit will allow rainwater installers to carry out water supply plumbing work that is for the supply of water from a rainwater storage system to a building. The permit will only be available for a limited time to existing installers who complete a Plumbers Licensing Board induction course and can demonstrate experience in such installations.

Further information on the restricted plumbing permit (rainwater storage) can be found in: [Industry Bulletin 164 – New licensing requirements for rainwater system installers commencing 10 February 2025](#).

**Disclaimer** – The information contained in this document is provided as general information and a guide only. It should not be relied upon as legal advice or as an accurate statement of the relevant legislation provisions. If you are uncertain as to your legal obligations, you should obtain independent legal advice.

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