

## Industry Bulletin 164

# New licensing requirements for rainwater system installers commencing 10 February 2025

***This industry bulletin is to alert rainwater storage system installers 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 supplied by water services providers such as the Water Corporation.

A decision paper 'Reforms to Plumbing Regulation in Western Australia' published by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety – Building and Energy Division (Building and Energy) in 2019, determined to expand the scope of regulated water supply plumbing work, to capture work connected to non-metered water supplies including **rainwater storage systems**.

The Plumbers Licensing Board (the Board) administer the licensing requirements for licensed plumbers and permit holders in WA. Building and Energy enforce the compliance requirements for plumbing work on behalf of the Board.

### What do the changes mean for unlicensed rainwater system installers?

Commencing **10 February 2025** rainwater storage system installers who install water supply plumbing services from the outlet of a rainwater tank to a building, will need to apply to the Board for a **restricted plumbing permit (rainwater storage)** to legally continue carrying out such work.

Permit holders will be authorised to carry out water supply plumbing work from a rainwater storage system to a building. The permit will not authorise the holder to carry out water supply plumbing work within a building. The permit is valid for three years with renewals available on expiry.

There will be a four month grace period from 10 February 2025, during which unlicensed rainwater system installers will be able to continue carrying out such work while making an application for the permit. If the Board accepts an application during the four month period, the applicant will be able to continue performing the work until the Board either issues or refuses to issue the permit.

The ability to apply for a permit will only be available for a one year period. From **10 February 2026**, no further applications will be considered. Recognising that a licence or permit has not previously been required to carry out the described water supply plumbing work, the Board has determined that there will be no fee charged for the application, issue and first renewal of the 'restricted plumbing permit (rainwater storage)'.

### What is required to apply for a restricted plumbing permit (rainwater storage)?

The Board has determined **three** requirements to apply for the permit.

#### i. Attend an induction course

Intended applicants must complete the **restricted plumbing permit (rainwater storage) compliance requirements induction course** prior to applying for the permit. This course informs applicants on the scope of permitted work under the permit, certification requirements for permitted work, and the

prescribed plumbing standards that apply to the work. Attendees of the course will need to ensure they can demonstrate the experience requirements in item ii.

Group inductions, complete with Q&A session, will be available at 303 Sevenoaks Street, Cannington WA 6107 from **August 2024**. Persons residing in the regions who are unable to attend a group induction will be offered an online induction.

To register your interest in attending a **restricted plumbing permit (rainwater storage) compliance requirements induction course** please email [plumbingreview@dmirs.wa.gov.au](mailto:plumbingreview@dmirs.wa.gov.au), and include your full name and telephone contact details. Building and Energy will maintain a register of persons who complete the induction course, to assist applicants.

**ii. Demonstrate experience when making application**

Application forms will be available on the Building and Energy website commencing 10 February 2025. To demonstrate the experience requirements to obtain a permit, the Board has determined that an applicant must provide evidence of the following:

- a minimum of two water supply plumbing installations they have carried out during the five year period up to 10 February 2025, which relates to water supply plumbing work – that is for the supply of water from a rainwater storage system to a building.

The required evidence must be in the form of a letter from an employer or invoices from customers, which refer to the water supply plumbing installations carried out by the applicant. The letter or invoices must include the:

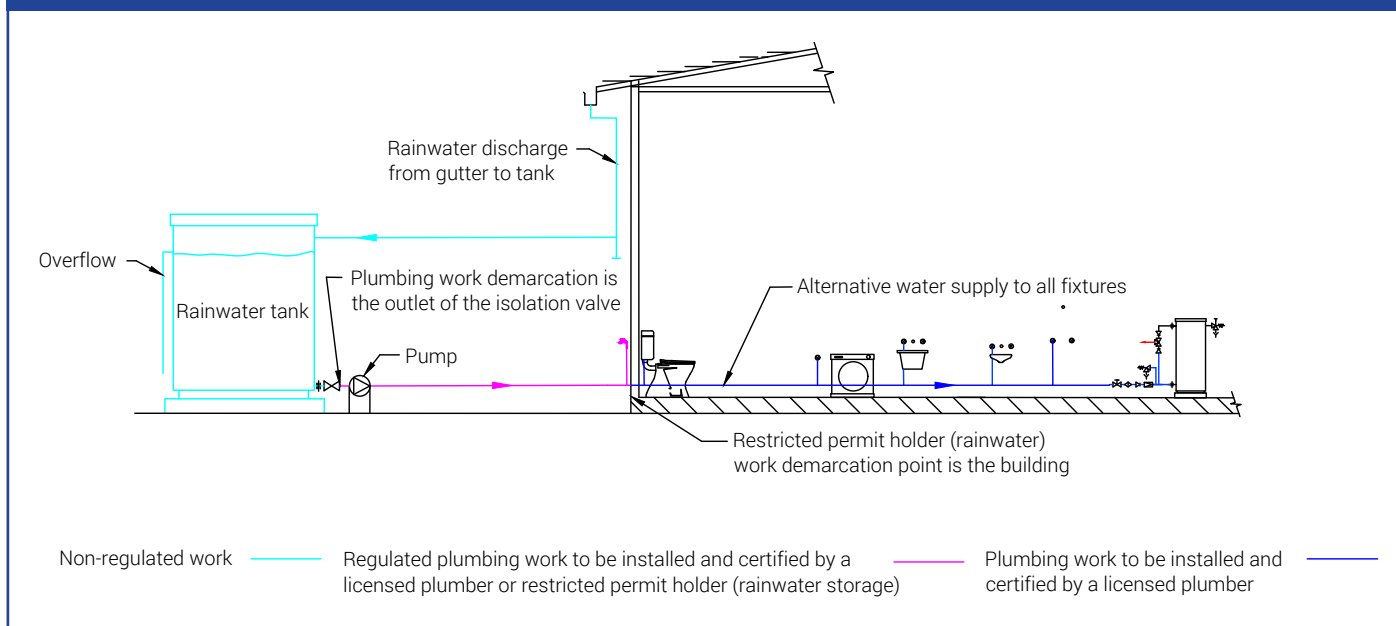
- full address details of where the work was carried out; and
- email and telephone contact details of the employer or customer.

**iii. Provide a National Police Certificate (NPC)**

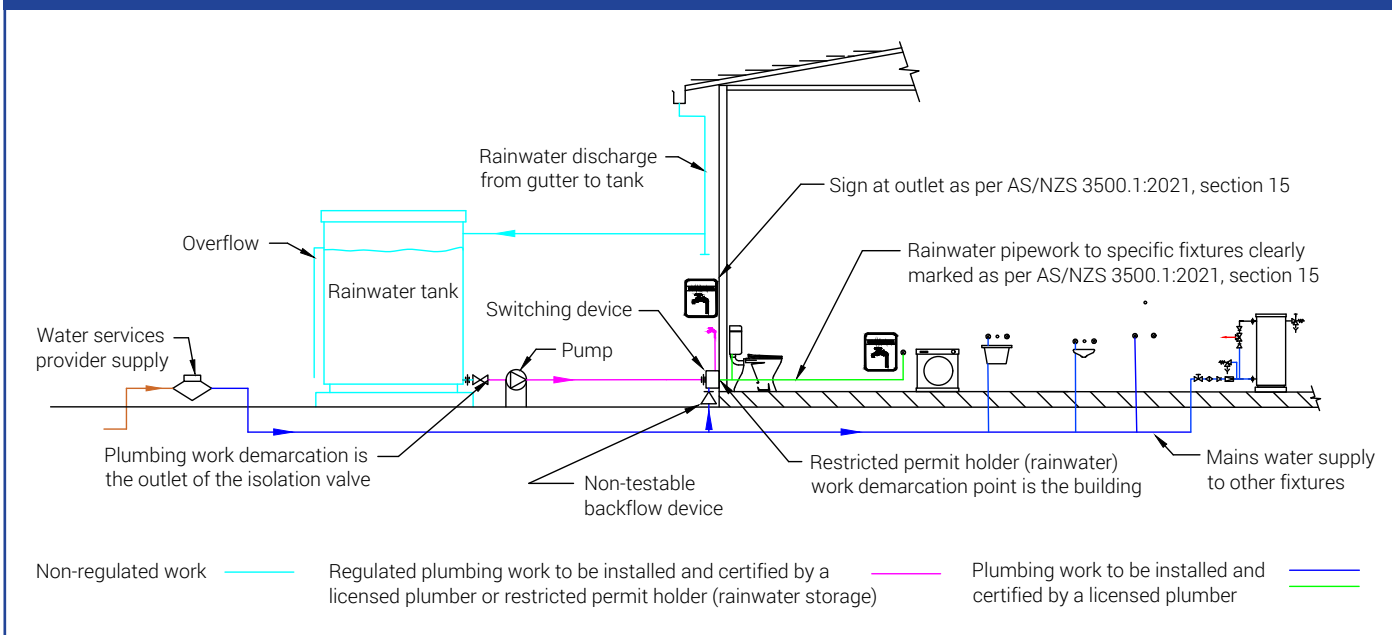
In line with all applications for plumbing licences and permits, applicants will be required to provide a National Police Certificate (NPC) with their application. Details relating to this requirement will be found on the application form. The cost of obtaining an NPC will be the responsibility of the applicant.

**Explanatory diagrams of regulated water supply plumbing work**

**Diagram 1 – Water supply plumbing installation from a rainwater tank serving all fixtures.**



## Diagram 2 – Water supply plumbing installation from a rainwater tank and switching device with mains back up to fixtures approved for use with rainwater.



**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.

### Building and Energy

Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

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