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**BUILDING ADVISORY SERVICES BRANCH**

# **BUILDING NOTE**

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## **ADOPTION OF THE PLUMBING CODE OF AUSTRALIA (VOLUME 3 OF THE NCC)**

The purpose of this Building Note is to advise of the adoption of the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA) in the Building Regulations on **3 August 2012**.

### **Background**

On 1 May 2011 the National Construction Code (NCC) series commenced. The Building Code of Australia (BCA) is Volumes 1 and 2 of the code series, and Volume 3 is the PCA.

The Northern Territory did not adopt Volume 3 (PCA) on 1 May 2011 as further consultation with industry was necessary. Following that consultation amendments to the Building Regulations were made to adopt the PCA.

### **Adoption of the Plumbing Code of Australia**

The PCA maintains AS/NZ 3500 as the technical standard referred to in the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions. The difference is that the PCA permits performance based solutions (alternative solutions) and AS/NZ 3500 did not offer that flexibility.

Alternative solutions must be at least equivalent to the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions. To ensure that such solutions meet that test, certifying engineers (hydraulic) are the only category of practitioner that may design and/or certify an alternative solution under the PCA. Other practitioners will be able to *carry out work* in accordance with alternative solutions and may continue to *design and/or certify* solutions in accordance with the *Deemed-to-Satisfy* provisions.

A copy of the Regulations can be found on the Building Advisory Services website, under the tab headed 'legislation'.



**STEVE POPPLE**  
Director of Building Control  
3 August 2012