



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Lies are Lies](#)
- [Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Amendment Bill 2013 Update](#)
- [The Lab Rats](#)
- [Alan Bickers said this in December:](#)
- [Economics 101 for the Minister of Small Business and Minister of Revenue](#)
- [Latest Consultation](#)
- [Never Too Old To Fight For What is Right.](#)
- [Joke of the Week](#)

## IN OTHER NEWS

### Continuing Professional Development

We have written to the Regulations Review Committee asking them to review our complaints regarding CPD.

We are hopeful Hon Marian Street will live up to the comment she made in Parliament this week that there needs to be checks and balances through scrutiny of regulations and that bad processes always result in bad law.

### Smile Awhile: The Flip Flop Sandwich

### Lies are Lies

How many more lies or “mistakes of truth” does this industry have to put up with before someone has the

big or small,  
**lies are lies.**

moral integrity to put a stop to it all?

Last week Flip Flop Williamson used his privilege of absolute freedom of speech in the House to further his push for law changes, and it appears you can state anything you want whether true or not in Parliament and not be held accountable. Flip Flop’s profound statement that there was an explosion in Pizza Hutt, Nelson where people were nearly killed seems to have been a lie.

Pizza Hut know nothing about it and had this to say:

*“We are shocked that such a claim has been made I am not sure what Mr Williamson was referring to but it did not have anything to do with Pizza Hut. I can assure you that we have NOT had a gas explosion in any of our stores. We take safety seriously in our organisation and have strong maintenance and safety compliant programmes in all our stores”*

So what level will Williamson sink to, to get his way? What other exaggerations of the truth have been spun? Most of us were taught that if people can’t believe what you say then you have nothing, you have gone as low as you can go.

So here we have a Government that is going to base a law of this country on the word of such a person, that doesn’t say much for the leadership. We believe any Minister and any Government has a moral duty to the public to state the TRUTH at ALL times. This entire scenario is starting to reek of attitudes that some people believe they are above the law. We rely on these people to ensure democratic rule, to uphold the truth, and the law of the land. What has been shown is that this trust is misplaced when it comes to some of those in Parliament itself.

### Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Amendment Bill 2013 Update

The second reading of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Amendment Bill was held last night in Parliament and we are very happy to report a change in attitudes, and numbers opposing the Bill have increased. This is in response to supporters taking the time and getting the message across to their local MP’s.

The Federation extends its thanks on behalf of the industry to all those Members of Parliament who have taken the time to understand the



It's been announced guests at the next Parliamentary banquet will be treated to the latest culinary delight - the Flip Flop sandwich.



**Dear Editor**

*"We are forced to draw a line in the sand."*

If democracy has failed with the government and their agencies, we have no option than to hold the Board accountable through the Courts and if we are going to do that we may as well do it properly. Claim Millions from them.

**Ed:** We are doing preliminary work at the moment and once the result of the Amendment Bill is out we will make a decision on the action needed, but we are looking at a national campaign.

**Dear Editor**

I saw this the other day and thought it was very appropriate

*"I stopped taking the medicine because I prefer the original disease to the side effects."*

Well done Federation!

**Dear Editor:**

Should the consumer be levied in the purchase

situation and vote against the Bill. To date the Labour Party, the Green Party, NZ First, the Maori Party, the Mana Party and Brendon Horan have voted against the bill so now the vote is 61 for and 60 against.

To view the debate go to <http://inthehouse.co.nz/node/18102>

The Minister of Small Businesses, the Hon John Banks (ACT) and the Minister of Revenue, the Hon Peter Dunne (United Future), are sticking to their support of National and the Bill. We fail to understand why they put their moral standings on the line for such a dishonest Bill.

The fight continues and we ask you to lobby Peter Dunne and John Banks to oppose this Bill – remember they need your votes. As most Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers are small businesses we would have thought John Banks in particular would have understood the plight we are facing.

Well done to Marian Street – she seemed to have a good grasp of the situation and conveyed it well to the House. She also highlighted the situation of an explosion at a Nelson Fish and Chip shop, which regular readers of our newsletter will be well aware – and shone a light into some pretty murky corners. We await ongoing developments with great interest.

It appeared a number of MP's had been contacted by plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers across the country. So much for Williamson's comments regarding a handful/small number of malcontents trying to upset the passage of this Bill. Keep up the fight guys; keep the emails flowing – and if you have an opportunity to protest in person, like one of our supporters below – then DO IT!

### The Lab Rats



No it's not a pop band, but it's looking like the plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying industry are the lab rats for the Government. Brendon Horan understands the situation well and mentioned in his speech last night that this Amendment Bill may

impact on house prices if extended to other industries.

You can just imagine Flip Flop Williamson sitting around discussing with others - "how far can we push them before they crack? They've followed blindly for years and done what we have told them so let's implement the same on other industries, after all they are only people with a dog, a Ute and a cellphone."

Well Minister, times are changing and you are in for a fight. You and your Board won't win because we have choices. We can choose to work legitimately, we can work in other industries, we can work illegally, we can choose to employ apprentices, we can choose to put our prices up to \$200.00 an hour to recover compliance costs, as do other industries you compare us to - and quite frankly you can't do shit about it.

You can either work with us constructively so we comply voluntarily or

price for items in the same way as consumers are levied on airline flights?

**Ed:** Excellent idea.

**Dear Editor**

You seem to be taking a lot of swipes at the Minister and Board. What has bought that on?

**Ed:** It's a simple answer.

When the industry gets treated with respect so will the Minister and Board. Over the last two years we have gone from mistake to mistake, to deliberate actions to bullying, and now to changing laws to cover incompetence so we simply despise them.

**Dear Editor**

How is the Board actually held accountable?

**Ed:** Well it would seem it is "Claytons" Accountability – the accountability you have when you don't have it.

No one holds them accountable except for the odd report from the Office of the Auditor General and by the time they do a report 12 months has passed and the Board will claim it's in the past.

The Board seems to be 2 years ahead of the government departments and agencies put in place for our protection. So we get ripped off and then they say the Board did wrong but it's in the past so let's move on. Old Flip Flop is a useless as tits on a bull and does nothing.

Remember what he said last week: *I have no powers of direction of the PG&D Board.*

So why even have the

you work against us and force us to work illegally - the choice is yours. What you are doing now mate ain't working. Michael Heseltine said "I am humble enough to recognize that I have made mistakes, but politically astute enough to know that I have forgotten what they are." We think you fall into this camp, but we are not so forgetful Minister – and we will keep reminding you, and others of the mistakes you have made and what the outcome of these is.

**Alan Bickers said this in December:**

*"It is clear that CPD will become a requirement to continue to work in the full range of regulated trades and professions in the building and construction sector. I intend to work towards ensuring that all the trade CPD schemes are comparable in the future"*

So here is the Chairman of TWO registration Boards, telling the other industries in advance what is going to happen to them, because if what they are imposing on our industry is not the way it will be for all, then why are the Bickers Board and Flip Flop fighting so hard to implement it? Why are they changing laws to get what they want and to tidy up their cock-ups of the past?

**OTHER INDUSTRIES BE WARNED YOU WILL BE NEXT!!** You have followed with ITO's, you have followed with CPD, and very soon you will follow with the funding model and prosecutions levy.

It's all about passing the costs, risks and responsibilities onto US the tradespeople. Look at the gas certification scheme. A very good scheme was in place, albeit with the odd hiccup, and now we are forced to change to save the Government a couple of million dollars and remove the responsibility from them.

It's a simple equation where the government currently aids other regulatory Boards with funding and prosecutions and they want to hand that cost on to others so their books look better.

**Economics 101 for the Minister of Small Business and Minister of Revenue**

Currently we have a situation where two years ago 7,400 people licensed. This year 7,000 are estimated by the Board to license so numbers are on the decrease. As fees go up more people feel disillusioned and leave the legitimate industry. Now there are less licensed people to pay the levy to prosecute the population of New Zealand who may undertake plumbing, gasfitting or drainlaying.

Simple situation that in two years, the remaining licensed people have had to fork out an extra \$72,000 to cover the 400 people who left the industry, and as people leave the legitimate industry the chances of prosecutions increase.

The licensed people have to increase prices to cover the regulatory requirements and the public say "that's too expensive" and go to the black market where the Government misses out on taxes and other levies. Offences increase and more is required of the licensed people and around it goes.

Minister if he does nothing except cover the Board's arse and bail them out of trouble.

**Dear Editor**

It seems to me the Board is starting to dig their heels in due to the fact that they have been proven wrong so many times. Maybe they are embarrassed that they were not intelligent enough to get away with it.

**Dear Editor**

Regarding the Board's security doors - perhaps the doors have been installed to stop the theft of CPD Points?

**Dear Editor**

I'm sick of those fat pigs at the board; they are useless sacks of shit. I have worked with one of them. He wouldn't make a plumber's asshole.

They have us young plumbers by the balls. I am a craftsman/certifying plumber out there trying to do it. I have worked it out, once you have all your tickets, you are more than likely going to be worse off than ever.

I think next year I'm not going to pay my fees but give my money to Federation and rock around perking it, like every other man and their dog.

Jokes aside why don't we just not pay our fees!

**Dear Editor**

Sure is heating up in Parliament, and thanks for a very informative newsletter yesterday ... I informed my MP Chris Tremain, and asked him also if he could organise another meeting with Williamson, also I questioned him about

So, what incentive does the industry have to "dob" in the "cowboys" and unregistered people? As more are prosecuted then more money will be needed and the Amendment Bill will give the power to the Board to increase the prosecutions levy. It is a flawed system - as is a lot that the Board implement.

Systems are only any good if the industry support them. It's not rocket science.

**Latest Consultation**

What do the Board want to do? They are wanting to make participating in a competence review a term and condition of a licensing.

Currently section 53 and 54 of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act allow provision for the review of competence. A very good process if adhered to appropriately by the Board.

The intent of the Act was to ensure that the practitioner is practising at the required standard. Competency review is NOT a disciplinary process. It is designed to review and educate as detailed in the sections 53 and 54.

The proposal of the Board does nothing more than legislates the Board MORE power beyond the intent of the relevant sections. Something they seem to be almost addicted to.

The proposal of making the participation a term and condition of licensing empowers the Board to take disciplinary action under section 89 (c) of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006.

A competence review is NOT, in our view, a punitive or disciplinary process and it is normally not a re-examination of knowledge or skill. Rather it is an assessment of performance in actual practice.

Specific complaints should not be investigated as part of the competence review process - although they may give an indication where the review should be focussed.

Competence review is an educative opportunity where the practitioner is assessed and where necessary assisted through a training programme to ensure they are practising to the required standard of competence.

We totally DISAGREE with the proposal of the Board and feel this is yet again an attempt by the Board to legislate its self power.

A yes vote for the consultation is a yes for prosecution, so vote NO to this ludicrous proposal.

We will be sending out a prefilled form for you to add to, change or to send as is if you agree with our thoughts on the consultation. One thing we do want to emphasise is that you must have your say, whatever it is.

Don't let the opportunity pass you by.

**Never Too Old To Fight For What is Right.**

Williamson's statement that if the Board didn't perform, he would sack them all.....

Here is Chris Tremains response:

*Thanks for your email. I will not be arranging any further meetings in Napier on this issue. A decision has been made. It is time for the industry to move forward. Kind regards, Chris Tremain MP for Napier*

My Response was:

Thanks Chris Very interesting response, very disappointing also. A decision has been made- what decision are you talking about?.... I told you I do not support the Bill. I realise that you must have to do everything that Mr Williamson asks, so yeah no point in taking it further with you Chris, no problem. I was only contacting you as you are our Local MP, and thought you may be concerned, and wanted to keep you informed.

Time for the industry to move forward !, .....how on earth can it, with lawbreakers in charge. Thanks for your time

ED: *"A decision has been made. It is time for the industry to move forward."* We assume moving forward, to Chris Tremain, means moving backwards using a Bill to attempt retrospective legislation, please don't tell us National have another Flip Flop?



"You are never too old to fight for what is right" said George Parsons, so over the weekend he led by example. Even though he hasn't been well, this keen supporter from Nelson took the fight to Nick Smith's Caravan. George, who has probably forgotten more about plumbing than most people can remember, had this to say *"I've worked bloody hard for this country, my community and my family and I'll be buggered if I'm going to let these mongrels take it away from me."*

George had an issue with the Board when he was in hospital having a triple heart bypass and they wanted to suspend the people George supervised. They said he could not give proper supervision. We wondered then, and we wonder now how they view other more prominent people who own companies and supervise staff but who travel overseas for extended periods. Consistency in application of regulations is very important in our view.

George has told Nick Smith he'll be back and he won't be alone, so you others down in Nelson - go along and have a chat to George and keep him company. **Well done George!**

#### Joke of the Week



Finish the week with a smile on your face, and look forward to Peter Jackson's latest Horror Movie - **"JOURNEY TO THE OTHER SIDE"** starring Flip Flop. Believe us this horror story will make you cringe!

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