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**IN OTHER NEWS**

**How Similar is this?**

The Government admits it's been charging most van and Ute owners too much - (an extra \$150.00 per year) - for ACC when they register their vehicles. ACC has potentially collected around \$150 million in levies it shouldn't have.

But the Government says that doesn't constitute a "mistake". We estimate the legalised theft has taken \$4,260,000.00 from just OUR industry over the last four years.

The extra tax has hit thousands of New Zealand farmers who drive Utes. (Do they have cell phones and dogs as well? Does this make them trades people in Flip Flop's eyes?) But they're not expecting a refund any time soon.

The Government is putting a spin on it all and ACC Minister Judith Collins says van and Ute owners should be grateful ACC is now going to charge them correctly.

She will change the levies in December to make the system fairer.

**Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Amendment Bill Update**



Thursday last week, the House started the Third reading of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Bill so you can take it that the Bill will be passed. We assume that Flip Flop was too ashamed to go to the third reading, and so got Anne Tolley to do the reading from a set script on his behalf. They are claiming the Amendment actions put in place was what was intended by Parliament, but what proof have they come up with to say the prosecution's fee was what was intended? None as far as we can ascertain.

Even at this final third reading stage the lies are coming thick and fast. Ms Tolley stated "Overall the validation of these fees and levies was the most practicable and cost effective option because the money has been spent on investigations and prosecutions", well what a load of shite. Not even 50% of it has been spent on investigations and prosecutions.

The House is now in recess for the school holidays and the third reading should resume on the next sitting day 30 July 2013. After that we will lobby the Governor General regarding our rights being legislated away by the Government of the day. We don't know what the Board and Minister's next step will be, but if history is anything to go on, it won't be very clever.

**Remember they are still a Charity**



**Government changes the law to allow Government appointed Charity Board to impose prosecutions tax.**

It may seem like a farfetched story that a Registered Charity is given the power to tax citizens of New Zealand but that's what is happening. Approximately 7100 trades' people who are forced to pay fees to the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board, a Registered Charity, are now being taxed so this "Registered Charity" can prosecute unregistered people who elect to do sanity plumbing gasfitting and drainlaying. Yes 7100 trades

The Passing of the Bill will make history in New Zealand whereby a Registered Charity is given the power to impose a tax on the people of New Zealand. This was sent to one of the papers as a letter to the Editor and we are hopeful it will be published.

"There is a better regime, which is coming into force, so there hasn't been overcharging," says Ms Collins. "But what it does mean is if we had had this regime in before, they would have had less money to pay." (Ed – to our way to thinking this means they have "overcharged" us – which when we do it sees us either in court or the disputes tribunal – funny that!)

But Ms Collins did make one thing very clear. Light vehicle owners will not be refunded the money they shouldn't have paid.

Add the estimated \$4,260,000.00 to the \$2,000,000.00 and the Government is just legalising the theft from us and the thieving pricks have taken close to \$6,260,000.00 from us in less than four years.

#### Letter to the Editor

#### Dear Editor

Looking back at my certificate of completion in 1992, I was awarded the honour of passing my craftsman plumber and gasfitter exams and after two years of being in the employ of a fellow craftsman I was able to go and work for myself which I have done ever since.

So I have been using that A4 sized laminated cert as my license to plumb and so far no one has questioned it. A bit like the old green indestructible car license that lasted forever...until a new pharaoh came on the scene.

Unfortunately this is still the case but there is a one world govt agenda where we all follow the same rules globally and if 7000 odd plumbers nationwide don't follow the rules the govt will change them to allow 7000 others who would happily take their place, NZ being a far better life than their present one...at least at the moment.

Presently I am certifying the work of 10 unregistered but qualified plumbers for a fee which keeps me going.

people will be paying whatever money is needed to police the population of New Zealand. What's this country coming to when the Government changes the laws of the country to allow registered charities to impose taxes?

How does a Registration Board appointed by the Government, controlled by the government and forcibly funded by an industry become a Registered Charity? What's next will the government ask charities such as rescue helicopter organisations to tax people making donations for the prosecution of people flying helicopters without a pilot's licence?

The Government is also passing a retrospective law to say nearly \$2 Million that the Charity collected illegally was collected and spent legally. Legitimate Charities struggle to get donations now without the Government disguising their enforcement Boards as charities. So called Democracy in New Zealand is dead. This country needs to go back to a practical approach to issues where truth and integrity play a role.

#### Ready for a laugh



Laughs in our industry are few and far between at the moment, but not to worry, the Minister and Building and Construction (Flip Flop Williamson), the Building and Housing Group and Flip Flop's puppets the PGD Board will put on a show which is full of laughs.

They will soon produce an Output Agreement because the last one ran out in March 2013 but it will most likely follow the same pattern as last year where the agreement wasn't signed until late in the year around October. It will contain nothing of substance and nothing that anyone can be held accountable for.

The laughs will continue with the production of the Annual Report. The "spin" on how well they have done will be incredible – a veritable fairytale we are sure. You have to admit it takes a lot of creativity to make this horses arse of an organisation look good.

The entertainment this year will be supported by the Office of the Auditor General who will conduct a follow up to see if the Board have implemented their recommendations from their three year old report. It's so anticipated that the Social Services Select Committee rejected the industries petition over 12 months ago sighting the inquiry and follow up should look at a lot of the issues raised.

No matter what the outcome, no one in Government cares as they reject the Ombudsman's recommendations, the Regulations Review Committee's recommendations and previous recommendations by the Auditor General's Office. Our question is - why don't they save us all some money and close down the three organisations? The savings could be used to pay for the Board and staff to take another holiday to Melbourne so they don't have to steal from the industry to fund such things.

#### Competency Audits



Just when you thought it was safe to go outside you hear of another conspiracy theory. This week we heard of talk about the Board's projected random "Competency Audit" scheme (you know the scheme they want to impose after they make it a term and condition of your license to attend the Audits). It's been alleged it is going to be yet another point's scheme. Here's how it

was described to us:

I also believe the latest change to the gas regs re under 9k registration is an attempt to eliminate any cash jobs by introducing a paper trail.

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**Dear Editor**

Hi I am a craftsman gasfitter and have been for the last 13years. Regarding this new system which all of us gasfitters never knew what's involved or what we have to do - I can say only one thing, the new system which I knew has gone back so far in time I think we were still in the ape age.

Like many gasfitters I have spoken to since this started 2 weeks ago have not got any idea what to do - in fact 75% didn't know what they had to do with the new forms i.e. what logo had to go on or anything let alone be on the ESS data base or what is high low or general, in fact I am not sure totally but have done my gas cert forms till they change again and going by this totally useless lot we have, who knows - might be tomorrow if that Minster Williamson has anything to do then opps changed already.

Every plumber and gasfitter I have talked to all agree "to hell" with the Board and Williamson if you come after me well don't tell what you are going to do JUST DO IT and we will see you in the magistrates court, as their so called kangaroo court is nothing but that and I for one won't go there or talk to the useless bastards.

I can say one thing, to set myself up on the ESS website plus organise printing the new certs etc I lost the best part of a day plus the cost to get the printing done.

This new system was designed to stop the charges of the gas certificates to the public but in fact it just costs the same or more just to get our lost income back so again where did they think there would be no costs [sorry that's right they were dreaming again].

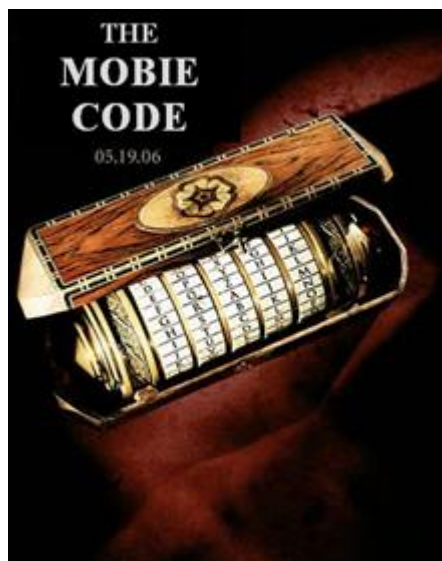
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- 5 Points for having easy access to relevant legislation. (Comment from the guy with the Ute, the dog and the cellphone – "Shame the Board didn't have this when they stole \$1.8 million from us".
- 5 Points for having high visibility vests.
- 5 Points for speaking nicely about the Board.
- 5 points for still being on their electronic mail list and
- 20 points for being a Master Plumber.

But it doesn't stop there; apparently we are only going to have to pay a few hundred dollars for the audit, obviously on top of the fees we already pay.

There could be truth in this as we see the Board have been advertising for a Technical Services Officer. One thing we did note was that the Board states on their website that "There are no current vacancies at the Board." Perhaps they are too ashamed to point anyone in the direction of their website in case they see through all the bullshit on it.

### More Luck with the Da Vinci Code



The successful failure continues, yes we are talking about the new Gas Certificate Regime designed by Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MoBIE). The new regime which it touted will save the tax payer \$2,000,000.00, that's a whopping 45 cents each, is passing on additional costs to the tradespeople and the consumer. More false economies where it's more important for the Government to look good than to use common sense.

This gas certificate regime is not about safety at all, it's about money and the Government looking good, but the way they cover themselves

is lay it all on the industry. They make it our responsibility and they make any cost increases our fault. As soon as we say anything they claim we are against the safety of the public.

The recent meeting to discuss the Gas Certification Regime in Lower Hutt saw 40 gasfitters attend, with no points, no beer and no pizza on offer. It just goes to show that trades people are genuinely interested in learning new things, and there is a real will being shown to support each other and back each other up should the PGDB come knocking. Gasfitters are feeling they have been "dumped in the deep end" and are now truly doing it for themselves to quote the words of a song. They are collectively looking at the issue and working their way through it – with NO thanks to ESS or the PGDB. In fact ESS's advice to two gasfitters that contacted them was to "red the Regulations and take them to your lawyer for advice..." Get this mental picture – "Check for next gas job – van, tools, manometer, ipad, and lawyer – yes good to go." Don't laugh; it may not be too far from the truth.

This week a meeting was held in Wellington hosted by a prominent Master Plumber's member where it was discussed forming a Prosecution Support Group. Such are the failures and risks of the new legislation that already people are fearful of what actions will be taken. Now don't get us wrong if you do the crime you do the time, but the proposed support group will assist with ensuring people get a fair deal and those that aren't guilty don't plead guilty just to save money.

## Dear Editor

The Board may be in for a few surprises over the next few months.

I am seeing trades people start to talk to each other like never before, not relying on groups like Master Plumbers to look after them, but collectively getting together to discuss changes in regulations and how they can meet the Board head on.

Could just be the start of the "Chapters" the Federation has spoken about?

**Ed:** Yes there has been a lot of interest in Chapters in the Hutt Valley and Wellington.

Numbers supporting the Federation are over 1,040 and that's deducting Flip Flops staff and a few others who get the news letter.

But just because they work for the Government doesn't mean to say they don't support us.

### From the Internet

Spoke to three gas fitters today, two works for companies and one self employed.

Not one of them new about what carts need to be issued for what type of installation/maintenance work.

This really is gonna turn into a pile of shite where if you do it all correctly you'll be priced out of the market.

You would think that some kind of ad campaign is required so the public are aware of the changes and costs involved.

It is anticipated anyone who is contacted by the Board regarding discipline issues would contact the support group and seek advice, assistance and peer review of the case. Members of the group will need to be experienced tradespeople who are prepared to go to discipline hearings in defence of fellow trades people. The Federation believes it is an excellent idea and will be supporting it as much as possible.

In addition the Federation is also thinking along the same lines with the formation of a national shadow "Board" who will be elected by the industry and will review the decisions made by the PGD Board and Minister and report on the impact on the industry. This will provide effective governance of the industry for industry. Let us know what you think? We would see the "Board" being made up of ten representatives of industry (from one man bands to larger companies, from apprentices to certifiers).

### Copies of Gas Certificates; Charge for them?

We note in the Regulations that Gas Safety Certificates and Certificates of Compliance must be supplied upon request to:

- the Secretary
- the Board
- the Registrar
- the territorial authority of the place where the gas installation is located
- the person who contracted for the work to be done
- the owner or occupier of the place or thing in which the gas installation or part installation is located.

We believe you CAN charge for the certificates as you are the owner and you will incur costs in the recovery of the documents from your archives, copying and postage. In this world of user pays then it is reasonable to impose a cost.

The Board have set the precedent with the imposition of a fee for the recovery of gas certificates from archives so it is only fair we do the same. They had a system where they had all the relevant information which has been dumped by the regulations.

If we don't impose a charge then yet again we are working for free.

If you are in favour the Federation is happy to draft up a letter of notification to the relevant organisations for you to send, warning them of the charges. We can still meet our legislative responsibilities by supplying the documentation by the required time lines. If the organisations fail to pay then they will become a bad debtor the same as anyone else.

What are your thoughts on this issue?