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**IN OTHER NEWS**

**Annual Business Plan**

The Board's Annual business plan for 2014 – 2015 is online at

[www.pgdb.co.nz/publications/corporate](http://www.pgdb.co.nz/publications/corporate).

What a disappointment. There is nothing new or exciting in fact 50% of the document is a cut and paste of the objectives from the Strategic Plan.

The remainder are simply dates imposed by legislation or policy and a few one liners that cover the Board's arse if others don't help the Board achieve their objectives.

We expected performance targets and objectives that would make improvements rather

**Our Industry is unique so shouldn't the solutions be unique to?**



We are unique - a lot of the industry is qualified in two or three trades, and some have even more qualifications that are used, but we find we are trapped by a perception that we "are only tradespeople" and as such we are not good at anything else.

What a total load of garbage! Naturally we believe it is exactly the opposite. Think of this – in days gone by there has always been a need for the

hunters, gatherers, the providers of food, the providers of water, the providers of warmth, the providers of waste disposal, the inventors and the list goes on.

As tradespeople we are not only expected to know our trade but also to know everything else such as OSH laws, tax laws, employment law etc., and yet we still get belittled by the people who we don't need, the bureaucrats who simply make rules and regulations which we must adhere to.

As an industry we need to step up and say we are better than what the bureaucrats and public perceive us to be. In reality the bureaucrats such as the Minister of Building and Construction and the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board are simply there to support our activities, to put a little bit of order into daily routines - and it's time they were reminded of that. Can we do without them? Yes!! Can they do without us? NO!!

As an industry and as individuals we all have options available to us and we all have two ends, one to sit on and the other to think with. Our success depends on which we use - heads we win, tails we lose. It's time to get off our arse and stick up for ourselves.

We believe no unique solutions are being applied to the problems in our industry and we are being treated like a bunch of dumb arses. We are allowing ourselves to become the "Forgotten Industries."

What ideas do you have for progressing the perception the public has of the industry?

than just rehash things that are already in place.

They are not performance measures that push for good performance but more performance measures that are safe and are easily achievable.

The types of measures written by the person who has to achieve them. Lazy measures that aren't about performance but about being seen to achieve.

### Annual Stakeholder Survey.

What does the Board's Annual Stakeholder Survey actually tell us?

This is what the previous Chairperson had to say about the surveys:

*"The Board has recently undertaken its second annual survey of licensed tradespeople to measure stakeholder views on the Board's services and communication. It is pleasing to see that there has been further improvement to the high satisfaction ratings recorded last year which shows that the Board is on track to achieving its goal of restoring its reputation as a respected, fair and responsible regulator"*

Utter garbage, there is no way the satisfaction survey shows the Board is on track to restoring its

## The Forgotten Industry



Has the Minister of Building and Construction forgotten he also has responsibilities for the Plumbing Gasfitting and Drainlaying Industry? You would have to think so when his so called "new Board" hasn't improved anything over the last three to four years and in fact the situation has got worse.

We know he's into his rainbows and we also know there is a pot of gold (for the government) at the end of the rainbow over the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board. We say a pot of gold for the Government because they appear to be the only people benefiting from the funding of the Board.

We believe that if the government was paying for the Board there would be better scrutiny over their performance rather than the industry being forgotten and left to wallow in the pitiful regulation imposed on it.

Everyone knows politicians use media releases to make themselves look better or to gloat about achievements. We had a look at Maurice Williamson's site on Parliaments website and noted he had 116 Media releases since this time last year. What was frightening was the number relating to plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying. Two was the magic number – one about the reappointment of two board members and the other was about the Amendment Bill which we all know took away the rights of the industry. Surely this will go down in history as one of the most disgusting actions ever taken against the industry.

Two media releases. Does this mean that for the last 12 months the Board didn't do anything that was note worthy by the Minister? We checked the Board's media releases and they had six to do with prosecutions, four about licensing, one about awards and one about the Amendment Bill. What a Stella year.

The Board's failure is the Minister's failure and both parties should note the pot of gold gets smaller as people drop out of their regulation regime.

reputation. The survey simply gauges how the Secretariat is performing what it gets paid to do and that is to provide high class administrative services.

It's like building a house where you can have the best tradespeople in the world building it but if the plans are crap then the end product is the same.

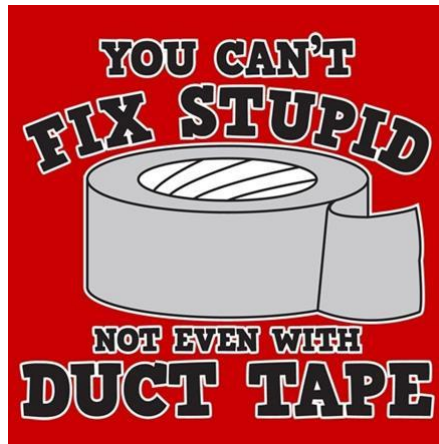
We have no doubt the Secretariat can work well in difficult situations (and so they bloody should given how expensive they are!), but they are restricted by what the actual Board gives them to work with.

If the Board wants a true satisfaction survey then they should split the survey between the Secretariat's performance and the appointed Board's performance.

For the appointed Board they should ask questions regarding the appointed Board's reputation, their communication with the industry, the policy decisions they are making, the decision making process, their consultation with the industry and such like.

It seems to us the Board are portraying the satisfaction survey as pertaining to the appointed Board's and the Secretariat's performance when

## What's Changed?



Maurice Williamson said this in a letter dated 12 September 2012:

*"It is my belief that, with the appointment of a new Chairman and Chief Executive, the Board has made good progress in addressing the findings of the Auditor-Generals report, regarding the confidence of the sector, and reducing the*

*number of complaints about its activities. The Ministry of Business, Employment and Innovation will continue to work with the Board to ensure these activities continue"*

Eighteen months down the track and this statement is still a load of dribble. There is only limited confidence from a small part of the sector and the reason there are fewer complaints is that people are totally sick of there being no action by the Minister and him simply coming out with statements such as "Since I have nothing further to add on these matters, I respectfully propose we do not correspond further on them".

Not talking to the industry doesn't change anything; it only prolongs the eventual shut down to the regulation of the industry.

We believe the Minister of Building and Construction, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board, for all their so called higher education and experience, must be incredibly stupid not to realise it is not about the regulation regime but the MANNER in which it is being imposed.

We believe they have reached rock bottom, and have started to dig. If the Minister was at all interested he would facilitate an emergency meeting of stakeholders to search for a way forward as what is being done now is just a total FAILURE! However it does need to be a meeting of action not a "fob off" meeting, as we have met with him before and no action was taken. Total waste of oxygen and time in our opinion.

## Action Needed



Microsoft sums it up each day when we are on our computers – they ask us do you want to "Stand By, Turn Off or

they are totally different. A load of spin.

## Reports



We are waiting on the following reports:

- The Office of the Auditor General's follow up report on actions taken as a result of the recommendations from their 2010 report.
- The Ombudsman's Office report on a complaint laid about the legality of Continuing Professional Development.
- The Regulations Review Committee report on a complaint laid about the legality of Continuing Professional Development.
- The PGDB annual report which is always good for a laugh.

Restart?"

We have had a lot of the "stand by" over the last decade, got sick of that and have moved into the "turn off" stage where practitioners are turning off to the spin and the regulation of the industry. The Federation believes if the industry stays in this stage too long it will cause irreparable damage to the industry the way that it has to the Board's reputation and trustworthiness.

Let's stand up and get straight into the "restart" stage because patching up the old failing systems won't get us anywhere. The powers to be have shown they are only interested in doing it their way so for the industry we will have to force the change for innovative solutions. So if it means we all rally together and totally reject the regulation of the industry to get action then so be it. This is their failure not ours.

Send us your thoughts on what we need to move forward. For example should the existing Board become what its title indicates? The Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board - not the charity or the consumer protection board, two items which are not in their functions.

Perhaps you should use Microsoft's prompt to encourage you to do something to effect the change we need before we are the forgotten industry.

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