MPA SKILLS Plumbing
TRAINING AND APPRENTICE EMPLOYMENT

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**DATE:** Friday, 11 March 2022

**HEADLINE:** MPA Skills partners with PIPA to launch plumbing industry plastics recycling scheme

On World Plumbing Day, MPA Skills is excited to announce in collaboration with The Plastics Industry Association of Australia (PIPA)* and PIPA members, the launch of an industry-driven PVC recycling scheme in WA.

The objective of this scheme is to educate the plumbing industry in WA and provide an avenue for PVC plastic pipes off-cuts from landfill and recycling them into new PVC pipes.

MPA Skills CEO Ben Dahlstrom, said this joint scheme will help educate apprentice plumbers about the sustainability of plastic pipes and develop the behaviour of appropriate disposal of PVC pipe and fittings off-cuts. It also further provides an outlet for plumbers in Perth to have a facility to dispose of their PVC off-cuts as well.

“As WA’s leading trainer of plumbing apprentices, MPA Skills is proud to be rolling out this scheme in WA and acknowledges the work done by Master Plumbers Queensland and PIPA in establishing a similar scheme first on the east coast,” said Mr Dahlstrom.

Plastics Industry Pipe Association of Australia’s Executive General Manager Cindy Bray, said the majority of plastic pipes used throughout Australia are thermoplastics, meaning they are 100% recyclable and can be reprocessed easily into new pipes with the same life expectancy as the original ones – a service life in excess of 100 years.

“Due to their long service life the volume of plastic pipe and fittings in the waste steam is very low, however waste, such as off-cuts generated during the installation process need to be captured and diverted from landfill,” said Ms Bray. “These types of schemes play an important role in this diversion of waste.”

Mr Dahlstrom added: “It’s a collaborative approach and highlights the environmental commitments across all industries. We look forward to launching the scheme with PIPA and its members and together we are contributing to a responsible and sustainable future.”

*Pronounced *PIPER*

**Ends**

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**Note to editors:**

MPA Skills is WA's biggest trainer and employer of plumbing apprentices. MPA Skills is also renowned in the sector for its industry-leading apprentice and advanced training solutions and boasts a network of more than 10 000 plumbing industry specialists. Visit www.mpaskills.com.au to learn more.

Founded in 1999, the Plastics Industry Pipe Association of Australia (PIPA) is the peak industry body representing plastic pipes, fittings, and raw materials suppliers in Australia. Underpinning its approach is a commitment to future-focused leadership. Through research, education, technical expertise, and advocacy, we help advance the use of plastic pipes and fittings as a smart, efficient and sustainable solution.
For more information on PIPA – www.pipa.com.au

**PVC fast facts:**

- PVC pipe can be recycled six to seven times without significant reduction in pipe material quality requirements, highlighting the many benefits to collecting and recycling the offcuts. Assuming a pipe lifetime of 100 years, the PVC material in PVC pipes may have a lifetime in excess of 600 years!
- Plastic pipes have transformed the way we live. In Australia the majority of PVC resin imported into Australia is used in the manufacture of PVC pipes and fittings.
- Not all plastics are the same, plastic pipes and fittings are different to single use plastics. They do not end up as pollution in our waterways or oceans. They are engineered products, designed to last, recyclable, do not biodegrade or corrode - these properties are ideal of a product such as pipes where long-life expectancy is required.
- The plastic pipes industry has been incorporating and recycling post and pre-consumer waste collected from the waste stream for over two decades. This also includes scrap generated during the manufacturing process which is also recycled back into pipe products.
- Production plants for plastic pipes have a lower carbon footprint than alternatives, boasting low emissions and lower embodied energy. The main inputs for the equipment are electrically powered to melt the plastics, resulting in a very clean, enclosed process. The development has no combustion or chemical reaction, resulting in no smoke or emissions produced. From here, the thermoplastic material melts and can be formed into shape.
- Plastic pipes are smart, efficient, and sustainable, providing long-lasting and reliable infrastructure both now and into the future.
- You can explore more about the sustainability of plastic pipes - https://pipa.com.au/our-sustainability-story/