

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: Tuesday, 23 August 2022

HEADLINE: Plumbing industry plastics recycling scheme live at MPA Skills

Following on from the partnership announcement on World Plumbing Day 2022, MPA Skills and the Plastics Industry Pipe Association of Australia (PIPA) has begun its plumbing industry plastics recycling scheme with three recycling bins now operational.

Collection bins for rigid Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) and Polyethylene (PE) pipes and fittings are located at MPA Skills' Maylands campus and a PVC bin is situated at its Bayswater campus. Apprentices and tradespeople are encouraged to bring offcuts with them when visiting the campus and dispose of them in the bins provided.

MPA Skills CEO Ben Dahlstrom said he is pleased to have been able to deliver on the commitment made earlier this year and looks forward to reducing the amount of plastic that finds its way into landfill.

"I would like to acknowledge the work of Cindy Bray, EGM at the Plastics Industry Pipe Association of Australia (PIPA)* who started this scheme on the east coast which is having a demonstrable impact," said Mr Dahlstrom. "I also thank our other scheme partners in Vinidex and Pipemakers for working with PIPA and MPA Skills to deliver this service to the plumbing industry of WA."

Pipe manufacturers Vinidex will collect the PVC and PE bins at Maylands, with Pipemakers handling the PVC bin at Bayswater, recycling these off-cuts into the manufacturer of new PVC and PE pipe.

Mr Dahlstrom added that anyone is welcome to dispose of their plastic offcuts in the bins, not just apprentices or tradespeople that are training on campus, and hopes this will grow to other areas in the future.

"As the industry gets used to having this facility available, we plan on increasing the number of bins and locations to make a real difference," he added.

Information on what can and cannot be recycled can be found by clicking the link below or reading the information on the front of the cages.

<https://plumbing.mpaskills.com.au/plumbing-industry-recycling-scheme/>

*Pronounced *PIPER*

Ends

Contact details:

For more information, images or quotes, contact Ben Dahlstrom, CEO, MPA Skills, on ben.d@mpaskills.com.au / 0408 356 370.

For more information, images or quotes, contact Cindy Bray, Executive General Manager, PIPA, on cindy.bray@pipa.com.au / 0459 919 437

Caption: MPA Skills CEO Ben Dahlstrom (L) and Vinidex WA/SA/NT regional sales manager Adam Drake-Brockman (R) with the PVC/PE cages at the Maylands Campus.

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/>