



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Commerce**

## ***Media Statement***

### **Plumbers Licensing Board**

Unit 4, 321 Selby Street, Osborne Park, Perth W.A. 6017

Tel: (08) 9282 0961 Fax: (08) 9282 0857

Email: [cpmedia@commerce.wa.gov.au](mailto:cpmedia@commerce.wa.gov.au) [www.commerce.wa.gov.au](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au)  
[www.wa.gov.au](http://www.wa.gov.au)

7 August 2009

### **Unlicensed plumbing work brings maximum fine**

A substandard bathroom renovation has led to a Perth Court handing down a heavy fine for unlicensed plumbing work.

Thomas McCready of Hamilton Hill, who has never held a plumbing licence, completed the renovations at residential premises in Hilton in November 2007. Mr McCready charged the home owner approximately \$9,000 for the bathroom renovation.

In February 2008 the home owner found her house drains were not working correctly resulting in toilet and other waste water not draining away properly.

The home owner called in a licensed plumber to fix the dangerous and substandard work. The Plumbers Licensing Board was alerted and investigations established Mr McCready was unlicensed and unable to carry out any form of plumbing work

The Plumbers Licensing Board commenced prosecution action against Mr McCready for unlicensed plumbing work in the Perth Magistrates' Court.

Mr McCready did not appear in Court and in his absence Magistrate Lane imposed the highest fine possible, a \$5,000 fine plus the Prosecution's costs of \$555.50.

Magistrate Lane also ordered that Mr McCready reimburse the consumer \$1671.10 being the full amount that she had paid the licensed plumber to fix the faulty work.

Plumbers Licensing Board Chair, Judy Seif, was pleased with the result of the prosecution action and the penalties imposed. She said that unlicensed plumbing is a danger to the health of families and our community and would continue to be pursued as a priority by her investigations staff.

Ms Seif added "consumers can also protect themselves by asking to see the Board's photographic licence card that all licensed plumbers must carry with them. If you do not see a licence card do not employ these people for any form of plumbing, the risks to your health and that of your family are just not worth it".

### **END OF RELEASE**

#### **Media Contact:**

Alan Hynd

9282 0961 or 0429-078791

[alan.hynd@commerce.wa.gov.au](mailto:alan.hynd@commerce.wa.gov.au)