



Department of **Consumer
and Employment Protection**
Government of Western Australia
Consumer Protection

Media Statement

219 St Georges Terrace Perth Western Australia 6000
Tel: (08) 9282 0679 Fax: (08) 9282 0857
Email: gmcnamara@docep.wa.gov.au Net: www.docep.wa.gov.au

10 November 2006

Landscapers warned about illegal plumbing

Landscapers and DIY enthusiasts are being warned that only licensed plumbers can cut into the main water supply system to connect reticulation systems.

Last month, Consumer Protection successfully prosecuted a High Wycombe landscaper for undertaking illegal plumbing work by cutting into the main water supply to install a reticulation system in a Forrestfield home.

Consumer Protection Commissioner Patrick Walker said plumbing work is regulated to protect public health and safety, and the environment from the impact of unsuitable plumbing systems.

“Using licensed plumbers ensures that the integrity of our community water system is maintained,” Mr Walker said.

“Without adequate backflow prevention there is a real risk of contamination of the water supply with wastewater that comes into contact with reticulation systems.

“Licensed plumbers are trained to recognise high-risk areas and install the most appropriate plumbing system to minimise the risk of contamination.”

Mr Walker said licensed plumbing contractors guarantee that the work they perform complies with all of the relevant legislative requirements ensuring continued confidence in Western Australia’s plumbing networks.

Angelo Albert Fonte, who formerly traded as Fonte Landscaping Services, pleaded guilty in the Midland Magistrates Court to carrying out water supply work without the appropriate licence in breach of the Water Services Licensing (Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards) Regulations 2000 (WA).

The plumbing work did not comply with the National Plumbing and Drainage Code and had to be rectified at the expense of the Forrestfield homeowner.

The Midland Magistrates Court fined Mr Fonte \$400 with costs of \$290.

Statement ends

Media Contact: Gay McNamara ☎ 9282 0679 📞 0413 032 584