

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **FACT OF FICTION**
- **ANOTHER ZERO RETURN**
- **REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

IN OTHER NEWS

ABOUT BOARD VOTES

The Federation has noticed a couple of times recently that individual members on the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board have asked it be recorded in the minutes of the meeting that they have voted against certain decisions.

These individuals have felt so strongly that the decisions were wrong that they wanted to distance themselves from the Board resolution.

We congratulate them for this action because as part of the industry we believe it is only fair we see what Board members support certain activities.

Sure in a democracy the majority rules but we believe the hiding of the way a Board member has voted takes away the individualism.

If Board members are fully supportive of what they are voting for then they shouldn't have an issue

FACT OF FICTION



In the 70's if you referred to someone as being a "Zombie" you were implying that they were wandering around aimlessly without purpose or intelligence. As the years have passed the film industry has portrayed "Zombies" as being human flesh eating monsters that have no intelligence or logical thought process.

They also warn of the Zombie Apocalypse when these flesh eating monsters take over the world. Is it fact or fiction as any one of the following could be the catalyst.

Brain Parasites that turn victims into mindless, zombie-like slaves. Parasites of this type are already fairly common in nature.

Neurotoxins are certain kinds of poisons that slow your bodily functions to the point that you'll be considered dead. Even doctors have trouble with this one. The blowfish is a good example.

The Real Rage Virus Mad Cow Disease attacks the cow's spinal cord and brain, turning it into a stumbling, mindless attack cow. When Mad Cow gets in humans, they call it Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Neurogenesis is the method by which they can re-grow dead brain tissue. You don't need the cortex to survive; all you need is the stem and you'll still be able to mindlessly walk and eat. Roll on stem cell research.

Nanobots Scientists have already created a nano-cyborg, by fusing a tiny silicone chip to a virus. These cyborgs can still operate for up to a month after the death of the host. According to studies, within a decade they'll have nanobots that can crawl inside your brain and set up neural connections to replace damaged ones. This is frightening stuff in the wrong hands.

Or is it something else where the human flesh eating aspect is replaced with another thing? Is it possible the Zombie Apocalypse is already with us? Reverting back to our 70's definition then we believe the apocalypse

with the industry knowing which way they voted.

At the moment there seems to be a lot of hiding behind the “Unified Front” the Board tries to show.

Is it possible people are just “going with the flow” and voting to support issues even if they slightly doubt the Board’s resolution, whatever it may be.

The Federation believes the hiding of the votes doesn’t allow for any accountability to the industry and all Board members get tarred with the same brush.

While we are on the subject of the minutes they don’t really say much. The majority of the time it simply states the Board received a report and resolved that... blah...blah. That makes for pretty boring reading for those that are interested in the activities of the Board they fund.

The way the meeting minutes are at the moment it implies that the industry doesn’t need to know and that everything is just routine.

PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

A few years ago after the investigation into the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board a performance agreement was implemented between the Minister of Building and Construction and the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board.

The objective of the agreement was to set out

is upon us already. Why – well we have mindless bureaucrats wandering around without purpose, intelligence or logical thought process seeking only self interest and survival. These people are just gobbling up money and resources that could be better used elsewhere.

What’s the reason for this apocalypse, well we believe the bureaucrats and others simply don’t give a shit about the impact of their actions or inactions on others. There are people flying around the world running up the carbon imprint, wasting industry money and achieving nothing. People simply following other people like Zombies on a thoughtless rampage and when their host organisation is depleted they look for another host organisation to feed off.

We hear the government talking about diversity, inclusion and impartiality but it is obvious they have never applied for a position on the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board where the latest selection criteria seems discriminatory against European males that are plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers and that have affiliations to some targeted industry groups. A recruitment round where it’s doesn’t appear to be about who is best for the job but more who fits the government wants for diversity and inclusion. What a waste of resources!

What about the thought process that is expecting a return on investment when there has been no investment. A Minister that has had 60 media releases since getting appointed to the position of Minister of Building and Construction where ZERO percent of them pertain to the Plumbing Gasfitting and Draining industry. There hasn’t even been the appointment of Board members and the positions have been vacant since September 2018!

How about the bureaucrats performing the review of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006 which is still on the go after 6 years and of course we can’t forget about the Skills Organisation. We have an environment where a lack of tradespeople is feeding a black market to the detriment of the entire industry and there is no communication with the industry.

All these issues which impact on the practitioners in our industry and we are expected to follow these zombies. It’s no wonder the Minister and Board are losing the support of the regulated industry.

It seems that just when the industry was starting to regenerate itself the Zombie Apocalypse has struck us and the industry to ground Zero.

ANOTHER ZERO RETURN



We picked up on this from the minutes of Board Meeting 320 held on 26 March 2019.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT

Martin Sawyers gave an update of the Stakeholder

Liaison Meeting held on 25 March, and presentation of the CPD training for 2019.

The Chair left the meeting at 11.40am during the discussion on the

expectations and performance indicators that apply to the work of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board and other matters relevant to the relationship between the Minister of Building and Construction, Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment and the Board.

The last agreement posted on the Board's website was in March 2017 and was signed by Hon Nick Smith.

It appears the term of the agreement was from 1 April 2017 and was to remain in place until amended.

There is no new agreement on the Board's website so we can only presume the current Minister of Building and Construction doesn't have any expectations of the Board apart from the ones the previous Minister set.

When we look at the agreement it appears it is just the normal functions of the Board with a few set target dates. Very much business as usual, nothing new to help the industry progress.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I've have been in the industry for around ten years and get sick of seeing the constant fighting.

We are such a divided industry that it is no wonder people are always looking for some other form of employment.

World Plumbing Council and returned at 11.46am.

Resolved

That the Board:

- 1. Receives and notes the contents of this report.*
- 2. Notes the Board's participation at the Master Plumbers Annual Conference and World Plumbing Council triennial conference.*
- 3. Notes and records the electronic resolution regarding IT Upgrade Phase II 2019.*
- 4. Agrees to an additional Board member to attend the World Plumbing Council triennial conference in September.*
- 5. Agrees to the Chair remaining on the World Plumbing Council and funding his travel, accommodation and associated expenses until the end of his term on that council.*

You may well say "so what" but when you read this carefully you will notice that the Board agrees to an additional Board member attending the World Plumbing Council triennial conference in September. In a previous meeting they agreed to send the Chair of the Board and the CEO to the conference and now it is a third person.

We thought there must have been some riveting subject matter for the industry to be paying for three people so we checked the programme and to our jubilation a relevant section caught our eye "Modern Regulation".

Our jubilation was short lived as reading further it stated:

Modern Regulation: tackling the problems of a rapidly changing world Martin Sawyers, Plumbing Drainlayers Gasfitters Board (NZL)

So reading the information we have at hand at the moment we are sending the PGBD Chair, the CEO and one other Board member for a 20 minute session which our own CEO is presenting.

But it only gets better from there. If you read the minutes above you will notice the Board also agreed to the Chair remaining on the World Plumbing Council and funding his travel, accommodation and associated expenses until the end of his term on that Council which it seems is after he finishes on the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board.

From what we understand terms on the World Plumbing Council are for 3 years and can be renewed for a further 3 years. Our Chair announced his appointment to the World Plumbing Council in Edition 3 of the Info Brief 2017.

His term with the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board finishes September 2019 so it would seem the Board have agreed to fund his travel, accommodation and expenses into 2020.

Being a plumber and drainlayer isn't the cleanest or most glamorous job in the universe and it would be a lot easier to stomach if we had a good working environment.

Don't get me wrong my boss does a good job at looking after us but all the shit that goes on with the Plumbers Board and training just brings me down.

Why aren't things changing?

We seem to be stuck in some sort of black hole that we can't get out of.

ED:

Hello reader. We understand what you are saying and yes it does get monotonous seeing the same conflicts.

It is very draining on those in the industry that want change but nothing will happen until we get people into positions where they can affect change.

The big problem is people recruit in their own image so hence nothing changes.

Those that want change eventually get pissed off, turn their back and walk away.

You may be thinking what a waste of industry money and yes it is, but in reality nothing has changed. We haven't seen anything beneficial to the industry or the purpose of the Board since the Chair's appointment to the Council two years ago so to continue paying for him to attend is just more zero return for our industry investment in protecting the health and safety of the public in New Zealand.

We have submitted an Official Information Act request to the Board regarding what it costs the industry to be part of the World Plumbing Council and for a date when the Board Chair's appointment on the Council ends. We are waiting for a response.

REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

In May 2019 the Federation submitted a complaint about the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Board (Registration and Licencing) Notice 2016 to the Regulations Review Committee.

The Regulations Review Committee has accepted the complaint regarding these regulations and has invited Wal Gordon, on behalf of the Federation, to attend a hearing on 19 June 2019 at 4.30pm in Select Committee Meeting Room 7 Parliament Building.

The Federation is making this complaint about the regulations detailed above (the notices), which came into force on 6 December 2016, under the following grounds of Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, 2017, Chapter 5, section 319(2):

- Section 319(2) (a): is not in accordance with the general objects and intentions of the statute under which it is made:
- Section 319(2) (b) trespasses unduly on personal rights and liberties:
- Section 319(2) (c) appears to make some unusual or unexpected use of the powers conferred by the statute under which it is made:
- Section 319(2) (d) The Regulation unduly makes the rights and liberties of persons dependent upon administrative decisions which are not subject to review on their merits by a judicial or other independent tribunal:

You are receiving this email as a member of PGDF or because you signed up online.

Edit your subscription | Unsubscribe instantly

Plumbers Gasfitters and
Drainlayers Federation 6
Tacoma Drive, Totara
Park, Upper Hutt 5018 Ph
(04) 5277977 Mob
0276564811 Fax (04)
5277978
information@pgdf.co.nz