

# Building and Plumbing Newsflash 634

Amendments to the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019* and Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code to support a urine diverting toilets research trial

## Purpose

To explain changes to the *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019* (PDR) and *Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code* (QPWC) that allow a trial of urine diverting toilets (UDTs).

## Summary

UDTs are toilets that separate urine from solid waste. This simple design makes it easier to treat each type of waste separately.

The Australian Research Council (ARC) Hub for Nutrients in a Circular Economy (NiCE Hub) is working on ways to recover valuable nutrients from waste. Urban Utilities, a partner in this research, sees UDTs as a way to:

- Recover nitrogen from urine to make fertiliser
- Reduce pressure on wastewater treatment systems
- Contribute to the circular economy

This trial creates an opportunity for Queensland to lead the way in using new waste management technologies. It also shows how partnerships like the NiCE Hub can drive innovation that benefits both the environment and the economy.

In Queensland, plumbing products must meet WaterMark certification and installation standards to comply with the Plumbing Code of Australia. Currently, no UDTs have WaterMark certification, and there are no installation standards for them. These gaps have made it difficult to investigate the benefits UDTs in a practical real-world context.

To facilitate the trial of UDTs, the PDR has been amended to:

- Allow UDTs to be installed as part of the trial
- Add a new section (Section F) to the QPWC with clear installation guidelines for UDTs

## More information

To find out more about:

- The NiCE Hub, visit [the website](#)
- Plumbing and drainage laws and codes, visit [Housing and Public Work's webpage](#)

## Contact us

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