

ASSOCIATION OF HYDRAULIC SERVICES CONSULTANTS AUSTRALIA AND UNIVERSITY OF SUNSHINE COAST COMMENCE CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH STUDY TO ADDRESS LIMITATIONS OF AS/NZS 3500.3

The Association of Hydraulic Services Consultants Australia (AHSCA) and the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) have signed an agreement to undertake cutting-edge research to investigate, quantify and accurately predict the hydraulic behaviour of roofwater in box gutters and downpipes of large buildings. Both AHSCA and USC recognise that the current standard referenced in the Building Code of Australia, [AS/NZS 3500.3] has significant limitations that have hampered the broader construction industry for some time.

Some of these restrictions include:

- Flow rates for box gutters are limited to 16 l/s.
- Flow rates for downpipes are limited to 16 l/s.
- Downpipe sizes are limited to 150 mm diameter.
- Flow rate for sumps and overflow devices are limited to 16 l/s.
- Recommended overflow configurations are considered to

be restrictive and do not reflect industry practice.

These restrictions severely limit the design options that can be considered when designing roof drainage systems for large buildings. As part of its responsibility and commitment to its members, the AHSCA has decided to commission a comprehensive research study to develop accurate performance and design guidelines for roof drainage systems. An integral part of the research project includes the development of a full-scale box gutter and downpipe test rig at USC. The new rig will be over 25m long and 7m high and will include a fully-adjustable box gutter system with the capacity for multiple outlets and downpipes. The design of the rig ensures complete flexibility in the testing parameters and will also allow prototype testing of rainwater products under authentic hydraulic conditions.

TRADELINK OPENS DOOR

TradeDoor, exclusive to all Tradelink account holders, is a free accounting and job management programme that is available online at any time. It gives immediate access to Tradelink invoices, statements, products and pricing specific to each account and allows the plumber to order product from onsite (or anywhere), arrange deliveries and track orders in real time – via mobile device or computer.

Multiple options within the programme allow the tradies to choose exactly how much detail they wish to show in any paperwork, easily and efficiently. For example, individual labour and transport rates can be shown, client discounts, plant hire or specialist equipment rates



– each and every quote and invoice can show the exact amount of detail required – it is never a situation of ‘one size fits all’!

For more information go to www.tradelink.com.au or contact the local Tradelink Branch or Account Manager.

WATER PROJECT GRANT RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Sixteen schools and community groups from across Australia will be a little greener, less thirsty and growing a lot more fresh local produce this year thanks to a national initiative supporting water-related projects.

The Philmac Project was established by leading Australian manufacturer, Philmac, to provide cash grants of up to \$5000 to community organisations in rural and regional Australia. Now in its third round, the popular scheme received a record number of applications before entries closed in mid December, with more than 100 organisations submitting ideas to save water and improve water quality in their local communities.

A judging panel selected 12 recipients from short-lists determined by public voting. The panel also awarded four special grants for 2015 as part of a new Bluey Award, open to any applicant.

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Apart from handing out cash grants, the Philmac Project will also provide free Philmac product to eight projects this year.

For more information about the Philmac Project and the successful projects visit www.philmacproject.com.au.