

# The Backflow Prevention Association of Australia Inc.



Backflow Prevention  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



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The BPAA being the voice in Australia for everything Backflow, has its focus on a number of issues. It is chartered with representing and furthering the interest of its members.

One way that this is done is through providing education and information.



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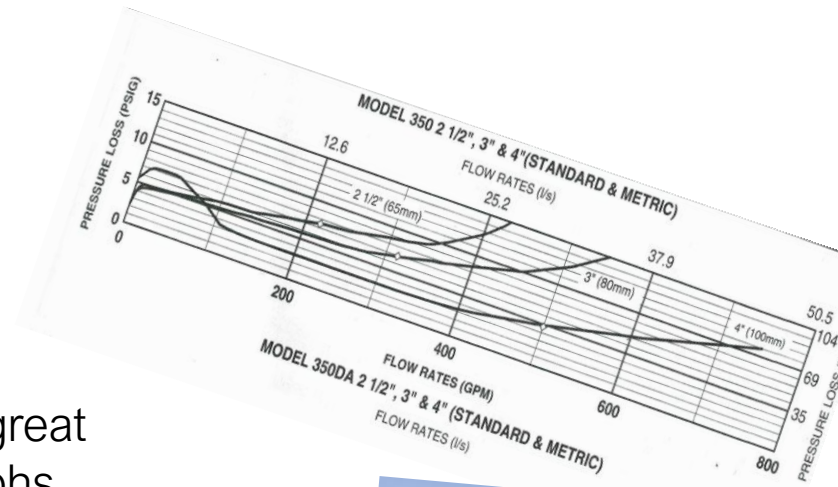


One way that the association has implemented this education is through a program called the Backflow Supplementary Program. Its aim is to assist Backflow Prevention Plumbers to become more competent and to help them achieve higher skills and knowledge.

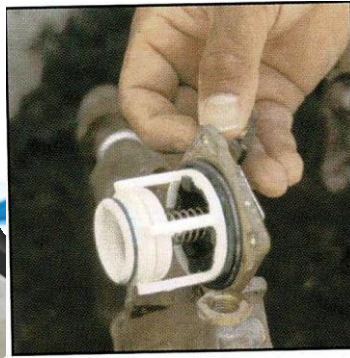




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The program goes into great detail with pictures, graphs, videos, real life examples of good and bad installations. With questions at the end of each section, participants are helped to improve their comprehension of the material presented





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Also, by providing training at our Conferences, videos and working along with other organisations such as PICAC our members do become better at their trade.



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Our Committee members travel to various functions to further educate and promote safe drinking water. Working in with the Reece Roadshow, the BPAA was able to present at its information stand at one Roadshow to over 400 delegates.. We estimate that between 8-10 % of delegates inquired at the information stand and from that a number of inquiries led to memberships



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The BPAA  
presents  
awards to its  
members





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We work closely with Australian Standards, the ABCB, and various other organisations, including various Water Authorities. We also are a regular contributor to the Plumbing Connection magazine.





# The Backflow Prevention Association of Australia Inc.

Our Website provides informative Material for Members including Videos, Fact Sheets and Trouble Shooting Guides



# The Backflow Prevention Association of Australia Inc.

This is one of the  
videos on our  
website





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Here in New Zealand, I believe you are entering a new phase in that the your Government has released its proposal to establish public owned entities for drinking water, which includes the boundaries of water service entities, governance and other matters. I understand that you currently have 67 different councils that own and operated the drinking water across New Zealand.



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In Australia not only do we have local Councils, but we also have Water Authorities and then we have our different States, and although we all work to the PCA and Australian Standards, rules and regulations do vary from State to State. Also, our licenses are issued by each State, so I can't work across Australia unless I get a license for each State and Territory.





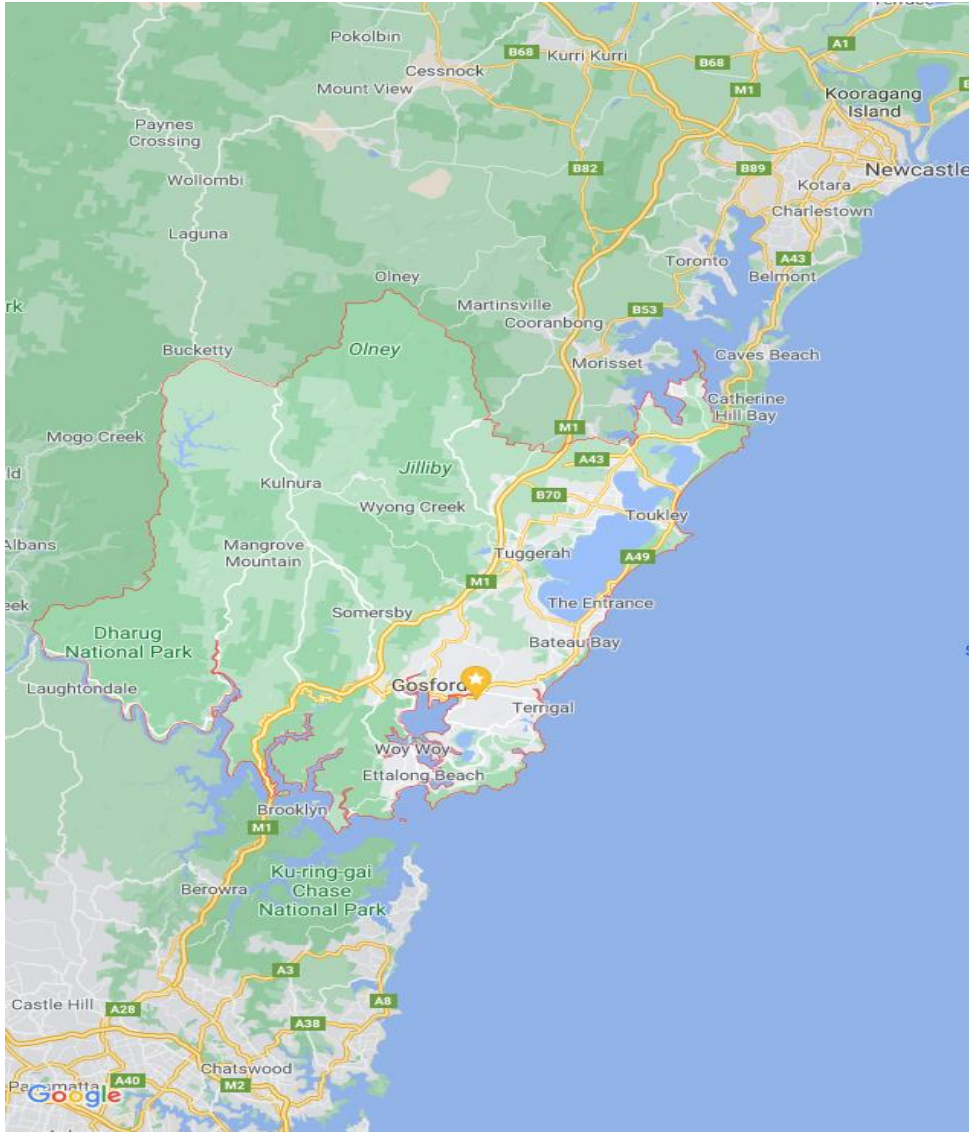
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In my home state of NSW, we have as the Authority The Department of Fair Trading. They have in turn passed over the governance of Backflow to Sydney Water, Hunter Water Corporation, Essential Water, (Broken Hill area) and then the various Councils in regional areas.



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My working area includes Central Coast Council, Hunter Water Corporation and Sydney Water. I live roughly in the middle of Sydney and Newcastle. So when submitting paperwork I have three different organisations, that I must deal with, and they all have different internet platforms to accept the paperwork. In fact the C.C.C. has two different internet platforms for lodging paperwork depending where the job is





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Most of these organisations are members of an association called WIOA. That stands for WATER INDUSTRY OPERATORS ASSOCIATION. The BPAA is also a member of this organisation which allows us to interact with them with regards to Backflow



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This enables us to be able to present at their Conferences presentations that explain exactly what Backflow is all about, and how it is their responsibility to have in place the proper procedures for recording the containment devices on a data base and as a minimum ensuring that they are tested and kept in good working order

A big misconception is what Backflow is all about. Backflow is a result of a cross connection in the drinking water supply system. Although this is usually within a private piping system whereby the owner or plumber unknowingly connects the drinking water to a contaminant, in some cases this can be a hose type connection, a machine or chemical dispenser of some type.

But it can also occur in the Public water supply. There have been reported cases where water authorities have cross-connected drinking water with non-drinking water (potable & non-potable). In one case the authority even boasted that they used a series of gate valves to separate the two systems.

I'm sure that everybody here today has an idea of what Backflow is all about, and how important Backflow Protection is so as to prevent cross-connections.

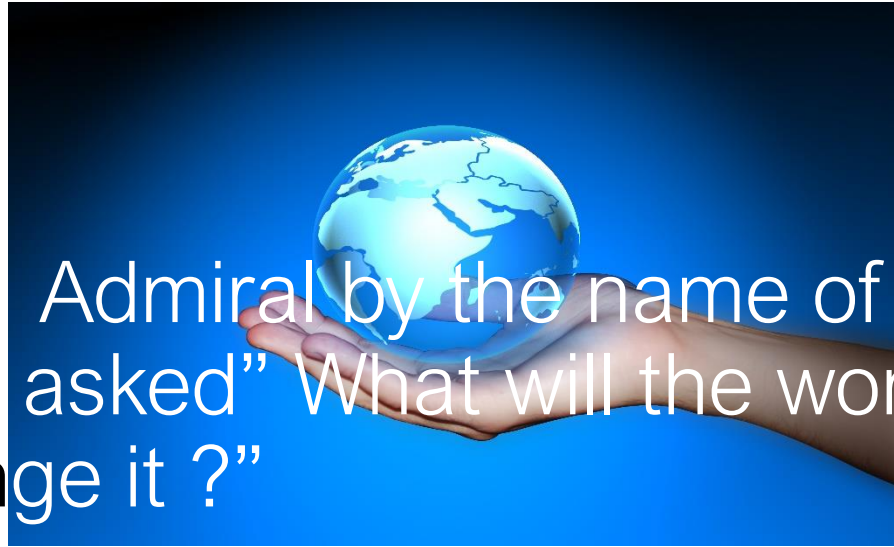
With the majority of our audience here being the suppliers of water to the Australian population, there may be the idea that Backflow protection rests with the Licensed Backflow Plumber. Although this is true, as Water Industry Operators you have the responsibility of ensuring that Backflow Protection is carried out by the Licensed Backflow Plumber to the Plumbing Code of Australia, and the various Australian Standards, including AS3500 and AS2845. Also, that as WIOs, Authorities, and Councils that you have in place the proper procedures for recording the containment devices on a data base, and as a minimum ensuring that reminders are sent out so that the devices are not only tested annually, but are also repaired within a reasonable time frame if they fail to meet the parameters as set out in Australian Standards AS2845.3.

This is in line with the various State Governments legislations





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An American Admiral by the name of William McRaven once asked” What will the world be like if you could change it ?”

A person cannot change the world by themselves, usually they have to work within a group.



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Navy SEALs are a great example in that they work as a team 7 to a boat. 3 each side to paddle with a Coxswain to steer. As a Backflow organisation, and as individual Backflow Prevention Plumbers, work with others, other organisations, other people with the interest in changing not necessarily the world but in your case New Zealand's water supply for the better. I encourage you to have a loud voice on your upcoming changes & to remain very active in the training of your members





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DON'T BE A BACKFLOW CLOWN



# The Backflow Prevention Association of Australia Inc.

The BPAA are now please to present to the Water New Zealand Backflow Group the Reciprocity Certificate.

This Agreement between our Associations will benefit both Associations and countries for the betterment and protection of their respective countries water supplies







# RECIPROCITY CERTIFICATE

In accordance with the agreement between the Backflow Prevention Association of Australia  
Incorporated

And

Water New Zealand Backflow Group

It is hereby Certified that the New Zealand Backflow Group and the Backflow Prevention  
Association of Australia Incorporated agree to a sponsorship for each other at their annual  
conferences as agreed and will continue to work with each other for the betterment and  
protection of their respective countries water supplies.

Issued on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021  
at the New Zealand Backflow Group Conference

.....  
Signature of the NZ Backflow Group President

.....  
Signature of the BPAA President



Backflow Group  
WATER NEW ZEALAND



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION  
QUESTIONS



Our website is:

[www.bpaa.org.au](http://www.bpaa.org.au)

