

PIPELINES



Official Newsletter of the Plastics Industry Pipe Association (PIPA)

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Issue No 3

June 2005

AGM

**PIPA Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 21 July 2005
at 2.00pm at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Kirribilli**

The PIPA mission to increase the market for plastics pipe this year has focused on the Government's \$2 billion water savings projects, aiming to ensure that plastics pipe is specified in pipe related water savings initiatives. Positive outcomes have been achieved in the two major channel piping projects announced so far.

PIPA has also been actively involved in water recycling issues, in particular Standards formulations and representations to Water Authorities and Councils.

Work continues to reverse anti PVC sentiments in certain Green Building organizations following a major break through in policy with the leading US Green Building Council and EC in Europe. Both organizations issued positive reports as to environmental properties of PVC.

PIPA and Water Savings Initiatives

Governments at every level have increased their individual and collective focus on initiatives aimed at more effective use of existing water resources.

A series of useful meetings have been held with NSW government representatives over the last year, focusing primarily on rural and regional Australia. These meetings have greatly assisted in raising PIPA's profile with government and at the same time, explored opportunities for the industry to co-operate with government on various water savings initiatives planned over the next decade.

Without doubt, the most significant policy development affecting PIPA's activity and focus in recent times was the signing of the National Water Savings Initiative by the Commonwealth and the States in June 2004. Some issues with regard to funding of this Agreement were resolved in April 2005.

Government has committed \$2 billion Australian Water Fund, "which will fund practical, on-ground water solutions. The fund will include a number of elements. It will

provide \$1.6 billion for the Water Smart Australia program, which will support major capital projects for more efficient water use, improved river flows and water quality, and better urban water management".

A \$500 million dollar commitment has been made over the next five years to the Living Murray Initiative. One of the first NSW projects to be granted approval and funding under this initiative was the Darling Anabranh project estimated at approximately \$54 million.

PIPA has been in dialogue with government regarding this project for more than one year and visited the Darling Anabranh in December 2004 with member companies. In Wentworth, we met with the Department of Commerce, the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR), the local Catchment Management Authority and the Darling Anabranh Management Plan Steering Committee to discuss the then possible project, detail the capacity of our industry, and inspect the Anabranh itself.

As an article in the *Sunraysia Daily* stated, quoting David Sumner at the time of the PIPA visit, "the environment is the winner with the Anabranh pipeline".

Following the final agreement between the Commonwealth and NSW, an Expression of Interest was released in April. PVC and PE has been specified as the piping material. Tenders will be sought in around June 2005. PIPA member companies are actively involved in this process.

PIPA has also been closely involved with the Wimmera Mallee pipeline project in central Victoria, by providing details of pipeline design and polymer price trends to Wimmera Mallee Water.

This project, which will be a recipient of the National Water Initiative, will, over 10 years, replace 14,000 kms of open channels with 9,000 kms of pipe, at a total cost in excess of \$550m. PVC and PE pipe in the size range from 50 – 1000mm comprise the bulk of the proposed pipeline.

PIPA continues to explore ways in which we can work with both government and landowners to consider different models for investment in water saving projects around NSW, in order to expedite pipe related water savings projects

Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative

PIPA member companies remain actively involved in the *The Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative*, ie “capping and piping the bores”. PIPA has consistently presented its involvement in this program as an example of the type of partnership which can exist between government, industry and landowners, and promoted this model for piping open channels.

Around 300 priority bores have been “rehabilitated” since the inception of the scheme. PIPA was pleased to note that the Government allocated “a further \$42.7 million to extend the initiative for another five years. The funds will be used in conjunction with state and land holder contributions”, totalling in excess of \$80 million.

Water Savings Project

The Commonwealth Government created the Water Savings Project “under its enhanced Natural Heritage Trust to consider significant new ideas to save water in rural and regional Australia. The Government's call in 2003 for water-saving ideas attracted more than 550 submissions”. PIPA's submission remains one of the 50 still under consideration.

Other Initiatives

PIPA is also taking a keen interest in other projects currently being considered in NSW. We continue to liaise with DIPNR, State Water and the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability, Sydney Water and others in this regard.

Metropolitan and major Council issues

In a metropolitan context, there has been ongoing media interest on water storage, water savings, and water re-use. Possible initiatives such as a major investment in a desalination plant have attracted much attention and debate, as has the increased re-use of Sydney's grey, storm and waste-water. PIPA is seeking to make an informed contribution to this debate at numerous levels.

Sydney Water issues

One of the most important water savings issues affecting Sydney is that of water lost through leakage in the existing infrastructure. In this regard, PIPA is continuing with its efforts to present the industry's credentials at Ministerial, departmental, Sydney Water and local government levels. At the time of writing, a meeting was being sought with the Minister for Energy, Utilities and Sustainability, the Hon, Frank Sartor MP

Yarra Valley Water issues

Discussions were held with Yarra Valley Water in Melbourne to provide Life Cycle Analysis and sustainability data on plastics pipes for their Environmental Control Plan.

Water issues in Queensland

Representations to Brisbane Water and Maroochy Shire Council were successful in reducing many of the current restrictions in the use of PE and PVC pipes contained in their respective Water and Sewerage codes.

PIPA Initiative with Federal Government

A useful meeting was held with the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, following publicity highlighting his interest and Federal involvement in water recycling, and the need for urgent infrastructure spending. PIPA was invited, and has since forwarded, material for his web site. Meetings with relevant Federal Government Ministers and advisers are to be arranged.

PVC – Environmental assessment issues

The US Green Building Council released a report which concluded that there was no justification for minimizing or imposing any restriction on the use of PVC, in fact they found that PVC was no worse, and in most cases superior to alternative materials used in building construction with respect to environmental properties over the life cycle of the product.

Currently the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) is promoting a rating tool which in our view discriminates against PVC.

Representations are in progress with the GBCA, and alliances are being formed with other industry bodies whose products have been similarly targeted by the GBCA.

Presentations were also made to Melbourne Docklands/VicUrban concerning a restriction on the use of PVC pipe for water reticulation on the Aurora Estate housing development. Similar discussions were held with the RMIT Centre for Design which has delayed approving PVC under its specification tool Ecospecifier

A meeting was also held with Ku-ring-gai Council in Sydney which has a restriction on PVC in its draft control plan.

The DCP is up for review in June and information will be submitted to have the offending clause removed.

PIPA Management and Marketing Committee Activities

Industry Seminar

PIPA will hold an annual seminar on the latest developments in the plastics pipe industry. The first seminar is currently being planned for Sydney in May 2006. The seminar will be held over two days with a dinner that will allow ample time for networking.

The theme for the seminar will be large diameter water pipes. Overseas speakers are being arranged and they will be supplemented by local experts. Adequate time will be allowed for questions and discussions.

The program for the seminar together with registration form will be distributed in due course.

Plastics Pipe Recycling Trial

PIPA has commenced a plastics pipe recycling trial with Collex, at its Sydney Recycling Centre. The waste material comes from construction and demolition sites and covers industrial, commercial and domestic projects. The trial will cover plastics pipe waste from the construction and plumbing industry sector.

PIPA conducted a small trial at a large construction site two years ago, but that trial did not generate adequate data and PIPA believes that the Collex trial will give more complete picture of the magnitude of plastics pipe waste in the construction and demolition industry sector.

Collex have a very thorough sorting system and we expect most of the plastics pipes in the waste to be recovered. The recovered material will be sorted and classified at Iplex. The trial will be run over three months and will end mid August 2005.

Press Release – Safety Alert

The safety alert was sent to a range of trade magazines and WorkCover in NSW. The alert deals with PIPA's concern that materials that do not meet Australian Standards are being used in compressed air reticulation systems.

The alert emphasizes the correct marking of PE pressure pipe in compressed air applications.

PIPA Technical Committees

Since the appointment of a new project Manager, Otto Marr, at Standards Australia the backlog of work has been sorted out. It has been identified that the work of the three major Standards Australia Technical Committees dealing with plastics pipes and fittings has fallen behind some 18 months due to mismanagement by previous project managers. Some 50 partly completed projects have been identified and are being prioritised to ensure early completion. The three committees, PL-006, PL-021 and PL-045 will meet in early June.

PIPA is conducting a major review of the work of the Technical Committees with a view to reduce the workload of the major contributors to the development and revision of Australian Standards. The aim is to reactivate the Portfolio Committees and Work Groups and involve representatives from all PIPA member companies.

PIPA PVC Technical Committee

High priority projects include:

AS/NZS 4765 (Int) Modified PVC (PVC-M) for pressure applications.

The document is with PIPA for final checking and incorporation of drafting notes. We expect the PL-021 meeting in June to accept the document and recommend it be sent out for Pre-Publication Ballot.

AS/NZS 1477 PVC Pipes and Fittings for Pressure Applications, Amend. 2.

Final drafting is to be completed before the PL-021 committee meeting in June for consideration by the committee.

AS/NZS 2032 Installation of PVC pipe systems.

Changes proposed at the last PL-021 meeting have to be added to the draft, but this should be completed by the June PL-021 meeting.

AS 3879-1995 Solvent Cement, standard under revision.

Draft has been prepared and will be considered by the PL-021 committee in June

AS 4441 PVC-O pipes, revision of standard.

The first draft of the revision has been completed and will be reviewed by the PL-021 committee in June.

AS 1462 Part1 Method for determination of dimensions of pipes and fittings.

Recommendation to withdraw the standard and replace with ISO will be discussed at PL-021 meeting in June.

AS 1462 Part2 Method for determining the flattening properties of plastics pipes and fittings.

Recommendation to withdraw the standard and replace with ISO will be discussed at PL-021 meeting in June.

Sustainability of PVC pipes for trade waste applications.

PIPA is liaising with WSAA to develop a test program for trade waste evaluation.

PIPA Polyolefins Technical Committee

The backlog of work identified by Otto Marr amounts to twenty projects. The highest priority item listed for early completion are:

AS/NZS 5065 Polyethylene and Polypropelene pipes and fittings for drainage and sewerage applications.

The Postal Ballot comments have been reviewed and the document still needs some editorial changes, but is being prepared for early publication.

AS 5082 PB pipe systems (metric).

This is with PIPA for final drafting, and will be presented at PL-006 committee in June for consideration and then for publication.

AS/NZS 2033 Installation of PE pipe systems.

Changes proposed at the last PL-006 meeting have to be added to the draft, but this should be completed by the June PL-006 meeting.

AS 2492 Cross-linked polyethylene (PE-X) for hot and cold water applications.

The draft is now at a stage where it can be sent out for public comment as agreed at the PL-006 meeting in September 2004

AS 2537 Mechanical fittings for PE-X pipe, hot and cold water.

Enzo Bova from GF was appointed as convenor of the PL-006 Working Group to prepare a revision of the standard. It will encompass larger pipe sizes and applications as well as fusion fittings.

Commercial, Trade, Technical and Training Enquiries

PIPA receives in excess of 1000 enquiries per year, which are handled by PIPA or directed to appropriate member companies.

PIPA web site www.pipa.com.au

The PIPA web site is attracting an increasing volume of traffic with technical papers being very popular. The first quarter of 2005 attracted 151,445 requests. The second quarter is already exceeding this.