

# PIPELINES

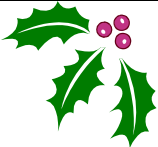


Official Newsletter of the Plastics Industry Pipe Association (PIPA)

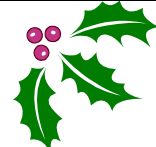
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**Merry Christmas**  
**PIPA Board and Staff would like to wish members a**  
**Happy and Safe Holiday Season**



PIPA has followed closely the major changes that have taken place in the NSW Government Departments to ensure that the valued professional relationships created by our involvement in various water conservation projects, were retained. Meetings with Ministers and senior bureaucrats are continuing.

Sustainability advantages of plastics pipeline systems are promoted widely through the publication of a paper on the subject on PIPA web site.

PIPA continues to achieve success in reversing negative statements about the use of PVC in a range of applications. Meetings with green organisations to discuss research undertaken in USA and Europe, are slowly yielding results.

## **A Year of Major Opportunities for Plastics Pipe**

### **Project areas of major focus**

Two major projects have been the principal focus of PIPA's activities in recent months. They are the Wimmera Mallee Project in Victoria and the Darling Anabranch in NSW.

These two projects offer major opportunities to our industry. PIPA has supported the industry's credentials and relationships in a transparent and constructive manner with the government agencies involved.

A series of contacts with GWMWater, the Wimmera Mallee Project team, Project Control Group and the Department of Sustainability and the Environment has seen PIPA maintaining a high profile in this area in conjunction with AVC, Qenos, Vinidex and Iplex. PIPA input has been sort on strategic market analysis, procurement options and pipeline system selection and will continue with a coming workshop in December.

Earlier work associated with the Darling Anabranch has seen plastics pipe systems specified for this project. PIPA is now being involved in detailed pipeline selection directly with consultants.

### **Departmental Changes in NSW**

In NSW, there has been significant political and bureaucratic changes, particularly in what was the department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources. This department has now been effectively divided in two with PIPA's principal focus at this time being in the Department of Natural Resources, the Minister being the Hon Ian McDonald MLC. PIPA has met with senior members of that Department with responsibility for water savings initiatives.

PIPA has improved its understanding of, and working relationship with, the NSW Department of Commerce. We recently met with senior persons in that Department responsible for Sustainable Water Solutions. Meetings with Project Management personnel may follow out of those discussions.

## Ministerial visit

The Department of Utilities has also emerged from the restructure of government responsibilities, with the new minister being the Hon Carl Scully MP. PIPA placed priority on briefing the new minister of the industry's capacity and credentials. To that end, we invited the Minister to visit a PIPA member company in his electorate. The Minister has kindly accepted our invitation.

The visit took place in late November at the Vinidex site in Smithfield. The Minister has responsibility for utilities such as Sydney Water and State Water, including town and country water supplies.

Minister Scully and his senior adviser were briefed on the latest cleaner production processes and the technical capacity of the industry and its products. The Minister also took a keen interest in the industry's environmental achievements.

PIPA has been addressing issues regarding town and country water supplies with signs of some small but encouraging developments.

PIPA has maintained its valued contact with State Water, principally through Abel Immaraj, the CEO.

## Investment by the Private Sector in Water Savings Initiatives

Despite some progress, the private sector generally has expressed concerns about policy impediments to further investment in some water savings initiatives. PIPA is giving consideration to making a joint presentation with other industry groups to the responsible Ministers.

## Sustainability

PIPA has developed a position paper on sustainability in consultation with PIPA member companies. The industry's credentials in this area are sound. Members are encouraged to share this information proactively with a wide array of audiences. The material can be found on our web site.

## Green Building Issues

PIPA continues to be pro-active regarding issues and developments in "green-building". In any presentations to government and other stakeholders, we continue to make reference to the fundamental principle of selection on merit and need for reference to science where sound science is available. We reinforce the credible environmental credentials of plastic pipe, from production to disposal.

In the area of recycling, PIPA is currently undertaking a recycling trial with Collex, the results of which are publicly available on our web site.

In a PVC context, the Vinyl Council of Australia is meeting with Ministers and senior bureaucrats in Victoria, S.A. and Qld to address specific matters regarding PVC. Both PIPA and the VCA are both following developments regarding the positive draft report of the Green Building Council of America with interest.

## Plastic Pipe usage issues

PIPA is involved in a series of WSAA workshops planned for early December. The workshops will focus on a broad range of topics including product appraisal, plastics pipes and data collection. Following on from earlier WSAA discussions, valve anchorage is still being investigated. Input from CLM Excavations has potentially provided an off the shelf alternative that will be one of the topics discussed.

Several discussions and formal presentations have been undertaken with major Authorities relating to relining options with PE. There is strong potential for several projects to go ahead in NSW using swage and slip lining in larger trunk sizes. As a result of these presentations one major authority has subsequently sort PIPA input into a series of large diameter PE sewer rising mains.

PIPA was approached for information relating to design of the Darling Anabranch. Subsequently a presentation was made on pipe system options to senior water design consultants. Following the success of these presentations it is planned to roll these out across the major consultancies.

## PIPA Technical Activities

### Committee Structure

Both PIPA Technical Committees were restructured to give all members an opportunity to participate in technical issues undertaken by the committees. Work Groups have been established and coordinators appointed for each Work Group. All members have been invited to join the Work Groups.

Work Group details are published in the members only section (Key Page) of the PIPA web site. This information will be updated as work progresses.

All members are welcome to contribute to the activities of the Work Groups.

### PIPA PVC Technical Committee

Mark Heathcote, the PIPA Technical Marketing Manager, has been appointed Convener of the committee and Alan Whittle from Iplex Pipelines Australia Pty Ltd has been appointed Chairman. Four member companies have representatives on the committee:

Australian Plastic Profiles Pty Ltd  
Australian Vinyls Corporation Ltd  
Iplex Pipelines Australia Pty Ltd  
Vinidex Pty Ltd

### High Priority Issues

Work on the following has been completed:

- Review of performance requirements of PVC-U and PVC-M that should be included in pressure pipe and fittings standards. The key requirements identified are:
  - a. PVC-U
    - i. Joint testing to be updated in line with generic changes to other PVC pressure pipe standards
    - ii. Adopt ISO 9080 in the next revision of AS 1477
    - iii. Consider reintroduction of 0°C impact test
    - iv. Consider a 40MPa at 20°C, 1hour pressure test across the full diameter range
    - v. Consider introducing a 60°C regression test
  - b. PVC-M
    - i. Since there is no practical alternative to the tower test it should be retained
    - ii. Notched pipe test and long term C-ring test should be strengthened

- PIPA proposal for higher initial interface pressure for TPE to satisfy long term requirements has been included in Part 4 of AS 1646 draft
- Cyclic Fatigue document has been published on the PIPA web site

Work on the following issues is in progress:

- A review of RRJ requirements for differential loading – test and/or geometric requirements; AS 1462 and ISO 13844 test requirements are being compared with a view of adopting the ISO version.
- A plan is being developed in conjunction with WSAA for a test program for evaluation of trade waste.
- A second PIPA PVC Industry Guidelines issue (PVC002) is being prepared for solvent cement use. Consideration will be given to discontinue the use of in situ brushes currently supplied with tins of solvent cement.
- The development of a document, in conjunction with Greg Moore of SA Water, showing chemical resistance of plastics pipes is being considered. The committee believes that such a document could provide useful information for pipeline systems designers. Once produced the document will be published on the PIPA web site.
- PIPA recommended to Standards Australia to adopt ISO 6993 for organisations that require a PVC gas pipe standard.

For more details on the work of PVC Work Groups please consult the PIPA web site [www.pipa.com.au](http://www.pipa.com.au)

### PIPA Polyolefins Technical Committee

Mark Heathcote, the PIPA Technical Marketing Manager, has been appointed Convener of the committee and Mike Stahmer from Vinidex Pty Ltd has been appointed Chairman. Five member companies have representatives on the committee:

George Fischer Pty Ltd  
Iplex Pipelines Australia Pty Ltd  
Philmac Pty Ltd  
PPI Corporation Pty Ltd  
Vinidex Pty Ltd

## High Priority Issues

The following items have been completed:

- POP009 Rural and Flood Pipe Industry Guidelines have been published on the PIPA web site.
- The committee agreed to develop a proposal to add SDR21 to Series 2 pipe.
- The committee agreed to develop a proposal to replace SDR 17.6 with SDR 17 in Series 2 pipe.
- PIPA Group Leaders on Standards Australia Technical Committees will supply copies of minutes of meetings for publication on the PIPA web site in the members only section (Key Page).
- The list of action items developed at a liaison with Standards Australia has been completed with only a number of minor items outstanding.
- PIPA Industry Guidelines, POP002, Polyethylene pipes and fittings for compressed air applications, have been revised and Issue 6.6 published on the PIPA web site.

The committee is working on a wide range of standards and technical issues. Progress of the work is listed on the PIPA web site, [www.pipa.com.au](http://www.pipa.com.au), in the members only section (Key Page).

- PIPA Industry Guidelines, POP008, Striping of Polyolefin Pipes, document is being prepared.
- PIPA Industry Guidelines, POP006, Derating Requirements for Fittings, are being revised.
- PIPA has made a submission to the WSAA Sewage Pumping Station Code of Australia WSA 04-2004.
- ISO is considering a request from Japan and USA to agree to the process to manufacture PE pipe using natural resin and adding masterbatch at the extruder. Australia and most European countries are opposing the proposal.
- Standards Australia has accepted a submission by PIPA on the longevity of plastics pipes. All Australian Standards referring to plastics pipes will carry a statement in the Preface that plastics pipes have a life expectancy in excess of 100 years.

- WSAA have indicated that AS 1646, Elastomeric seals for waterworks purposes, is not the appropriate standard to cover the wide range of elastomeric materials used in the plumbing industry. PIPA will monitor developments.

## Mark Heathcote Joins PIPA



Mark Heathcote has accepted the position of Technical marketing Manager with PIPA.

Mark comes from an impressive background in both materials technology and clients services, including a senior role in Sydney Water. He was responsible for the introduction of new pipeline products into Sydney Water and also had extensive contact with a broad cross section of industry. Importantly in the Sydney Water role, Mark provided a single point of contact for pipeline manufacturers, suppliers and importers.

Mark's broad product knowledge, including his 13 years with Sydney Water, will greatly assist both the industry and our industry's diverse clients. Before leaving Sydney Water in 2003, Mark was Manager Pipeline Products and Materials in the Asset Management Division. Mark's most recent position was as Operations Manager for the Pipeline Assessment Group in a leading Engineering consultancy providing services to water and sewer infrastructure utilities.

## 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](http://www.pipa.com.au)

The PIPA web site is attracting an increasing volume of traffic with technical papers being very popular. In 2005 it is estimated that in excess 700,000 requests for information will be received.