



Plumbers,

Gasfitters and

Drainlayers Board

# The Determination of Drainlaying

Where does “drainlaying”  
finish and plumbing start?

June 2007

## **Where does “drainlaying” finish and plumbing start?**

Standards Australia has been approached for a ruling under AS3500 National Plumbing and Drainage Code, relating to an issue of demarcation between sanitary plumbing and drainlaying in New Zealand. Standards Australia has passed this on to the Board as the body responsible for administering the Act under which the work of sanitary plumbing and drainlaying is defined.

The work area of concern is that part of the foul water discharge pipe work (e.g. traps, waste pipe, soil pipes ventilation pipes or overflow pipes installed to AS3500.2) which is located in the base course beneath the ground floor slab of a building and referred to in the drainage section in the AS3500 National Plumbing and Drainage Code.

This work relates to the discharge pipe work from sanitary fittings and appliances and conveying this to the exterior of the building envelope.

The Board has determined that traps such as floor waste gullies, and pipes from sanitary fittings and appliances used for conveying discharge, providing ventilation or overflow is sanitary plumbing, when all such traps and pipes are located within the confines of the building envelope and are in or under the buildings floor, including where installed in the base course beneath a slab floor.

Pipe work, which is generally external to the building envelope, to receive and convey the discharge from sanitary plumbing, which is below ground and within the boundary of a property, is drainlaying.

Accordingly, the Board has adopted along with all signatories to the ANZRA agreement and with the Joint Australia New Zealand Standards Committee the following definition which is also encapsulated in AS/NZS3500.

### **Drainlaying**

Drainlaying means the underground installation, alteration extension, disconnection, removal, renewal, repair and maintenance of pipes and fittings designed to receive the discharge from soil, stormwater and waste pipes and convey the discharge to a public sewer or drain or septic tank or other private treatment facility generally external to the building, which includes the effluent disposal system.

*Note: AS3500 National Plumbing and drainage Code has been harmonised and is now known as AS/NZS3500.*

Approved by Board resolution on 28 August 2003.

P W Routhan  
**Registrar & CEO**