

# PIPA's Deafening Silence on Plastic Pipe Failures



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The Plastics Industry Pipe Association of Australia (PIPA) touts itself as an advocate, educator, and provider of independent information for the plastic pipe industry. Yet, in the face of widespread polybutylene (PB) pipe failures plaguing Western Australia for the past five years, PIPA's silence has been not just noticeable, but deafening.

PIPA's website boldly claims they "*work in partnership with Australia's industry authorities and governments to advocate for the use of plastic pipes and fittings, sharing educational and technical insights, and where necessary to help change perceptions.*" However, their complete lack of response regarding the PB pipe crisis tells a different story. Where is the guidance for consumers grappling with failing pipes in their homes? Where are the educational materials to help industry professionals understand and address this critical issue?

The organization prides itself on education, stating, "*Through collaboration with our members, industry professionals and global counterparts, we develop materials and share educational insights on best practice manufacture, installation and use of plastics pipeline systems.*" Yet, as thousands of Western Australian homeowners face devastating property damage from faulty PB pipes, PIPA remains conspicuously mute. This silence is a failure to educate.

Perhaps most galling is PIPA's claim to be "*trusted to provide independent information and help resolve challenges in application and use.*" As the PB pipe crisis unfolds, leaving homeowners, builders, and regulators scrambling for answers, PIPA's absence from the conversation is glaring. What trust can the industry place in an organization that vanishes when faced with one of the most significant challenges in recent memory?

The depth of PIPA's silence becomes even more apparent when examining their technical output. Despite publishing over 30 Technical Guidelines (POP Guidelines) and approximately 30 Technical Notes (TN papers) on various aspects of plastic piping, not a single one addresses polybutylene pipes. This omission is not just an oversight it's an indictment of PIPA's relevance and commitment to the industry it claims to serve.

PIPA has published a wide variety of industry POP Guidelines. Search our POP library below.

| FILTER BY MATERIAL |              |          |       |         |          |
|--------------------|--------------|----------|-------|---------|----------|
| All                | polybutylene |          |       |         |          |
| Number             | Title        | Material | Issue | Updated | Document |
| No Result Found    |              |          |       |         |          |

View PIPA’s library of technical commentaries, manuals, notes, pagers, test methods and other technical information.

| FILTER BY SECTION |              |         |       |         |          |
|-------------------|--------------|---------|-------|---------|----------|
| All               | polybutylene |         |       |         |          |
| Number            | Title        | Section | Issue | Updated | Document |
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As the plastic pipe industry grapples with the fallout from the PB pipe failures, PIPA's inaction and silence raises serious questions. An organization that claims to advocate, educate, and provide independent information cannot simply disappear when the industry faces a crisis. PIPA's silence on the PB pipe issue is more than just a failure to communicate – it's a breach of faith placed in them by the industry and the public.

It's time for PIPA to break its silence, step up to its responsibilities, and prove its worth to the industry it purports to serve. Anything less is a clear indication that PIPA has become nothing more than a hollow mouthpiece, incapable of addressing real challenges when they arise. The plastic pipe industry – and the Australian public – deserve better.

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