

How Does an Industry Body Like PIPA Balance Industry and Public Interests

By PPN Editor



PIPA (Plastics Industry Pipe Association of Australia) is the peak industry body representing manufacturers and suppliers of plastic pipes and fittings in Australia. As an industry association, PIPA has multiple responsibilities that extend beyond just supporting its member companies. PIPA has so far failed to make a single statement on the extensive failures of PB plumbing pipes in Western Australia.

PIPA's stated purpose is to promote the "appropriate and contemporary use" of plastic pipes and fittings throughout Australia. This implies a responsibility not just to advocate for the industry, but to ensure that plastic pipe systems are used properly and safely.

PIPA collaborates with industry professionals and global counterparts to develop robust guidelines for best practices in manufacture, installation, and use of plastic pipeline systems. This suggests that the organization has a role in educating both industry members and the wider community about proper use and potential risks of PB pipes.

The organization brings together industry experts to form committees and working groups focused on addressing industry priorities. This could and should include addressing issues like PB pipe failures, as these are critical industry concerns.

PIPA emphasizes its commitment to creating a healthier environment and sustainable future. This commitment should extend to ensuring the durability and reliability of PB plastic pipe systems.

While PIPA's primary focus is on supporting the plastic pipe industry, as the peak industry body, it also has a responsibility to the wider community. This includes:

1. Transparency about potential risks and failures with PB pipes
2. Advocating for improved standards and practices for PB pipes
3. Educating the public about proper use and maintenance of PB pipes
4. Addressing concerns and issues with PB pipes promptly

An effective industry body should balance supporting its members with protecting public interest. PIPA's silence on the significant issue of widespread PB pipe failures could be seen as neglecting its broader responsibilities. A proactive approach to addressing such issues, including public education and consumer advocacy for improved product quality, would better serve both the industry and the community at large.