



Mark Pesce, futurist, inventor and host of podcast The Next Billion Seconds, to speak about the digital revolution and how it will supercharge your skills at the World Plumbing Conference 2019 presented by Caroma Smart Command

From 11 – 13 September 2019 in Melbourne, Australia, the World Plumbing Council will host its 12th [World Plumbing Conference](#), an international gathering to discuss the future of the industry across best practices, training and education, challenges and opportunities along with exciting industry innovation.

Futurist [Mark Pesce](#) is one of our keynote speakers, along with Mark McManus, general president of the United Association (UA) which represents over 350,000 union Plumbers, Pipefitters, Sprinkler Fitters, Welders and HVAC Service Technicians across North America and Rob Gell, weather expert, academic and executive director of ReThink Sustainability. Together, they will give us a vision for the future of the industry which is a key theme of this conference. Technology, environment, resources, and workplace participation will need to be understood to ensure plumbing responds to the opportunities and challenges of the future.

The conference program will be structured by the [Four Pillars of Plumbing](#) with sessions dedicated to each pillar:

Products – With an estimated value of more than \$80B, the world market for plumbing products has never been as big, diverse, fluid, or dynamic. This session will examine features and quality of the materials, fittings and appliances used in plumbing work. Speakers: Dr Steve Cummings, Caroma Industries (AUS), Professor Armando Silva Afonso, ANQIP (POR); Dr Carol Grossman, Department of Agriculture and Resources (AUS).

Participation - If plumbing is going to be the catalyst for liberating millions of people from a state of water poverty, we need more plumbers, trained and skilled in the latest techniques, products and installations. If we are going to maintain the health of big city water supplies and keep buildings, hospitals and schools free from threats such as legionella, we need more plumbing professionals. This session is focused on the training requirements to work in the industry. Speakers: Jane Stokie and Grant Stewart, WorldSkills International, Christoph Schaer, Suissetec (SUI), Robert Funston and Richard Hutchinson, Chisholm Institute (AUS).

Practices - Ensuring only trained people enter the industry is key to our success, but setting and enforcing quality standards within the industry is equally important. This session will explore what the standards and accountability should be for day-to-day work in the industry. Speakers: Peter DeMarco, IAPMO (USA), Dr Markus Lenger, Water Futurist (USA), Professor Lynne Jack, Heriot-Watt University (UK), Ryan Milne, Ecosafe International (AUS).

Protection - Industry needs to have in place the systems, processes, and laws that adequately protect consumers, the community and practitioners. This session discusses the measures required to

minimise risks and provide redress when failures occur. Speakers: Martin Sawyers, Plumbing Drainlayers Gasfitters Board (NZ), David Harper, Public Health Consultant – Legionella (UK), Phil Woolhouse, Engineering Consultant (AUS), Lea Smith, Institute of Plumbing South Africa (ZA).

WPC 2019 brings a program of international and local speakers to explore these themes and more along with breakout sessions presented by local organisations the Institute of Plumbing Australia, Backflow Prevention Association of Australia and the National Fire Industry Association. Further exciting speaker announcements to be made in the coming weeks.

ABOUT THE WORLD PLUMBING CONFERENCE 2019 PRESENTED BY CAROMA SMART COMMAND

The World Plumbing Conference ([WPC 2019](#)) will take place at the Melbourne Convention Centre from Wednesday 11 to Friday 13 September 2019. The event is the 12th triennial conference by the World Plumbing Council, an international organisation made up of plumbing industry associations from all over the world. The aim of the council is to achieve the best possible plumbing for the world through growth and development of the world's plumbing industries. [The World Plumbing Council](#) is currently chaired by Shayne La Combre, CEO of the Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre (PICAC), Australia.

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