

Candidate Statement

Ashleigh Dalmau

Nomination for Director - World Plumbing Council

I am honoured to be nominated for election as a Director of the World Plumbing Council by Master Plumbers and Mechanical Services Association of Australia, where I serve as Chief Executive Officer and Association Secretary.

I lead the work of Australia's major plumbing industry employer bodies, representing my plumbing and mechanical services members across policy, advocacy, training and member services, and bringing senior leadership experience across plumbing, construction, clean energy and association leadership. My career has been built in organisations that exist to serve members, strengthen industries and deliver practical reform. I frame my candidate statement below as aligned to the four pillars of the World Plumbing Council.

Participation

I believe the Participation pillar is fundamentally about people, capability and the future of the profession. My advocacy in Australia has consistently focused on workforce capability, apprenticeship pathways and ensuring plumbing remains recognised as a licensed profession with clear training and competency expectations. I would bring to the World Plumbing Council a strong commitment to supporting the next generation of plumbers and strengthening pathways into the trade.

I would also place real value on mentoring across borders. One of the great strengths of the World Plumbing Council is its ability to connect industries and individuals internationally, and I see significant opportunity in creating stronger links between emerging and established leaders, trainers and practitioners. Sharing what works across jurisdictions, whether in apprentice attraction, women's participation, instructor development or industry capability, can help lift the profession globally.

Practices

The Practices pillar aligns closely with how I have approached public advocacy and industry leadership. A core belief I bring is simple: doctors cure, plumbers prevent. Safe drinking water, sanitation, drainage, heating, cooling and mechanical services are essential systems that underpin healthy communities, resilient cities and national productivity. I have consistently championed plumbing's public health role and the importance of high-quality practice, compliance and accountability.

I have had the opportunity to represent the plumbing industry through media interviews, public commentary and direct engagement with government and stakeholders on issues affecting our members. Clear, credible advocacy helps ensure plumbing is properly understood and reflected in policy and public discussion. I would bring that same commitment to promoting best practice, sharing knowledge and strengthening the profession's voice internationally.

Products

The Products pillar is an area where I can offer direct policy and advocacy experience. In Australia, my work has included advocacy on product integrity and the transition to lead-free plumbing products, reflecting my broader commitment to safe water, public health and quality outcomes for consumers. I understand the importance of strong product standards, conformity, and confidence in the systems and materials used across our industry.

My background also includes senior leadership at the Clean Energy Council, the peak body for Australia's clean energy industry. That experience gave me a strong appreciation of the

intersection between plumbing, energy transition, decarbonisation, electrification and new technologies. I believe plumbing has a vital role to play in sustainable buildings and communities, and I would welcome the opportunity to support the World Plumbing Council's work in sharing best practice and practical innovation across borders.

Protection

The Protection pillar speaks to the frameworks that protect consumers, practitioners and the integrity of the profession. My work has centred on ensuring that the voice of plumbing businesses is heard by governments, regulators, industry stakeholders and the broader community, and that policy settings are practical, evidence based and grounded in the realities of the trade. This has included advocacy on national regulatory consistency, workforce capability and the recognition of plumbing as a profession with distinct public health and safety responsibilities.

Before joining Master Plumbers, I held senior leadership roles with Incolink, an industry-backed organisation supporting workers and employers across the construction sector. That experience deepened my understanding of the broader construction ecosystem and of the systems that protect workforce wellbeing, support employers and strengthen industry resilience. It also reinforced my belief that collaboration across all parts of industry, locally, regionally and globally, is how we continue to advocate effectively for our trade and deliver meaningful progress.

I hold an Executive MBA from Melbourne Business School and bring both a governance mindset and an operational lens. I understand that effective boards must do more than represent sectors or regions. They must help organisations remain relevant, financially sound, collaborative and future focused. I believe I can contribute meaningfully to the World Plumbing Council through committee leadership, cross-border mentoring, and by connecting policy, training, industry capability, public advocacy and global best practice.

I would also bring a contemporary perspective to the Board. As a younger female leader in a traditionally male-dominated trade environment, I understand both the responsibility and the opportunity that comes with helping broaden who sees themselves in our industry. I see that not as a symbolic contribution, but as a practical one, because strong industries are built when leadership includes different experiences, attracts new talent and remains connected to the next generation of professionals, apprentices and member businesses.

If elected, I would approach the Director role with a strong commitment to service, collaboration and practical contribution. I would actively support the World Plumbing Council's Four Pillars of Plumbing, its purpose of advancing plumbing through the exchange of ideas, research, technology and best practice, and its mission to strengthen plumbing's role in protecting public health, improving access to safe water and sanitation, promoting sustainability, and advancing education, training and professional standards worldwide. I would be proud to contribute through committee leadership and active Board service, and my organisation supports the time and financial commitment required for me to participate fully if elected.