

the voice of the industry

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Governments Plans to Slash Red Tape in Planning Applauded - Housing Industry Association

The Housing Industry Association has today congratulated the Government's on its firm commitment to cutting red tape in planning.

The release of the reforms recommended by a Ministerial Advisory Committee set up to review planning in Victoria by Planning Minister Matthew Guy, show that the Government is firmly committed to improving the current system though broad reform of planning and the planning assessment system.

The Committee has recommended changes which could see a major overhaul of the planning system in Melbourne and Victoria. It advocated for what it sees as the right system to achieve the Government's policy objectives.

More specifically it looks at improving the rezoning process, introducing a clearer and simpler process for minor matters together with reforming zones and benchmarking the planning system.

HIA's Victorian Regional Executive Director Gil King is delighted with the Minister's commitment to move forward with the key recommendations.

"Red tape in planning costs HIA members dearly" Mr King says.

"HIA estimates approximately 20 per cent of single dwellings in Victoria require planning approval however depending on objectors, local politics and VCAT appeal undertakings, it can take more than 12 months to get a permit" he said.

"The Minister has recognised that industry and homeowners alike can be part of a long and difficult process of obtaining a planning permit for a small extension or a fence."

"In its detailed submission to the Inquiry, HIA had urged the Committee to recommend a number of key areas like this that needed to be addressed - including removing simple and minor matters such as alterations, additions and fencing, from the planning system - allowing them to be dealt with through the building permit system."

HIA also recommended a simpler assessment system that could be used for the more minor applications that still require planning permits.

In particular Mr King says that the biggest issue with the planning permit system is that is unnecessarily delays small housing projects. Single dwellings, dual occupancies and extensions need a shorter process, with clear assessment criteria.

"HIA applauds the Government on its intention to introduce a system of code assessment whereby this could be realised" Mr King said.

Delays in the processing of planning applications mean that home builders can't get on with their job so HIA is pleased that some of the matters causing the blockages in the system are to be addressed.



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Mr King said that the final report seems to have taken HIA's comments very seriously and we look forward to working further with the Government to assist them implement the announced initiatives.

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