



the voice of the industry

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Plans to Cut Red Tape to boost housing supply: HIA

The Housing Industry Association (HIA) welcomes today's release of the Red Tape Commissioner's Report on the Review of Victoria's Planning and Building Approvals Process, said Fiona Nield, HIA's Victorian Executive Director.

"At a time when there is an expected slowdown in building activity in Victoria, but with population growing at a healthy rate, it is important that Victoria's planning and building approval systems are able to help the industry keep up with current demand for housing," Ms Nield said.

"Delays in planning approvals and excess red tape are a huge burden to the home building sector so the initiatives in the report are an important step towards improving outcomes."

The Review has been conducted over the last six months with the aim of streamlining local and state government planning systems and reducing red tape and delays in the planning building systems.

"The Red Tape Commissioners extensive consultation with a broad cross section of the industry has enabled HIA along with local government and other industry stakeholders to contribute to a balanced set of proposed improvements" Ms Nield said.

"Many of the proposed improvements are sensible and if adopted by Government may be able to be implemented with minimal disruption for industry and Councils.

"It is important that when planning and building regulation is being reviewed, particularly as it relates to the residential development, innovative ways in which to facilitate Melbourne's population growth with a diverse range of housing stock responsive to consumer needs are being considered.

"Consideration must be given to planning approvals processes that are consistent and determined in a timely way.

In particular, Ms Nield said that the improvements around to streamlining applications according to risk so that simple applications can be dealt with in a shorter time frame are very positive. This will allow council planners to concentrate on the more complex applications.

"Other positive steps include having a clear and consistent model for councils to consider applications as well as the recommendation to establish a new class of building surveyor for low-risk building work would help ease concern.

"HIA looks forward to ongoing involvement with the Red Tape Commissioner and working with Government to implement those proposed improvements that will have the greatest positive impact for the residential construction industry and the community," concluded Ms Nield.

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