

Media release

From the Building Commission

8 May 2006

Government changes to planning permit system do not affect building permit requirements

State Government changes to Victoria's planning permit system, announced by the Minister for Planning on Sunday 7 May, do **not** negate requirements for obtaining building permits.

Building Commissioner Tony Arnel reinforced that under the planning permit changes, home owners may still require a building permit for home improvement projects including decks, pergolas, sheds and swimming pools.

"Building permit requirements for Victorian homeowners remain unchanged," Mr Arnel said.

"While it is pleasing that the planning permit system has been streamlined in Victoria, home owners should be careful not to confuse these changes with continuing requirements for building permits.

"Before you begin any building project, determining whether you need a building permit is one of the first steps you should take. Building permits are issued by a building surveyor to ensure that the proposed building work complies with all building regulations, including safety requirements.

"If you are not sure whether you need a building permit, contact either the municipal building surveyor at your local council or a private building surveyor."

Neglecting to obtain a building permit, when one is required, is a serious offence and can result in penalties of over \$10,000.

-ENDS-

Kate Volard
Manager, Marketing and Public Relations
(03) 9285 6474