VBA reports record $25b building permit activity in first operational year

The Victorian Building Authority’s (VBA) 2013-14 Annual Report was tabled in Victorian Parliament on 14 October 2014 and shows that the value of building permits reported reached a record $25.3 billion.

The annual report reveals that building permit activity in 2013-14 was 12 per cent higher than the $22.5 billion in 2012-13 and four per cent above the previous record of $24.3 billion in 2010-11. It also shows an eight per cent increase in the number of permits reported; 101,349 compared with 93,881 in 2012-13.

Created on 1 July 2013 as the successor to the Building Commission and the Plumbing Industry Commission, the VBA also reported that in 2013-14, compared with 2012-13:

- 320,936 Plumbing Compliance Certificates were lodged (318,469)
- There were 21,186 registered building practitioners (20,877)
- There were 25,688 registered and licensed plumbers (25,294)

VBA Chief Commissioner William Kusznirczuk said increases in these areas, as well as certificates of consent for owner-builders, which together fund the VBA, reflected the growth in the building and plumbing industries in Victoria.

“Along with a more efficient business model under CEO Prue Digby, and strong direction from the Board, the Authority reported a surplus of $4.7 million,” said Chief Commissioner Kusznirczuk.

Key activities reported by the VBA in 2013-14 included:

- a major organisational restructure to improve its regulatory activity
- a more systematic, risk-based approach to all VBA programs
- new building audit program
- a new field-based compliance program
- an audit of building permits
- greater emphasis on communications with practitioners and consumers including a major investment in a new, user-friendly website
- led by the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, the VBA began preparatory work to sunset the Building Regulations 2006, due in 2016

Much of the change in the VBA’s first year is in response to the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office (VAGO) and Ombudsman’s reports of 2011 and 2012 respectively, as well preparing the VBA for wider responsibilities under the State Government’s proposed building industry reform package.

“The VBA’s main aim is to aid in achieving efficient and competitive building and plumbing industries in Victoria,” said Chief Commissioner Kusznirczuk.

For more information visit www.vba.vic.gov.au

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Media enquiries
Communications Manager – John Rees – 03 9618 9316 john.rees@vba.vic.gov.au