

Media Release

For immediate release

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Carpenter ordered to pay \$16,000 for working unregistered

A magistrate has ordered a Hoppers Crossing carpenter to pay an \$8000 fine and repay more than \$8000 to a homeowner after an investigation by the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) found that he carried out building work without being a registered builder.

Tye Lobley was hired to build a pergola at a home in Hoppers Crossing after providing a quote of \$10,594 to complete the work, and advising the homeowners that he was a registered builder. The owners reported the issue to the VBA after Mr Lobley failed to complete the work.

After conducting an investigation, the VBA charged Mr Lobley with carrying out building work and entering into a major domestic building contract when he wasn't a registered builder, receiving more than a 10 per cent deposit, and entering into a contract that did not comply with the *Domestic Building Contracts Act*. He appeared in the Werribee Magistrates' Court in May where he was fined \$8000 and ordered to repay the \$8049 deposit he received from the homeowners.

VBA Compliance and Performance Director Kate Despot said all domestic building work in Victoria costing more than \$5000 must be carried out by a registered building practitioner.

"Before signing a contract for building work, it is important that homeowners ensure their builder is registered. By using a registered builder, you can be assured that they have the experience and qualifications needed to carry out the work."

You can confirm that your builder is registered by using the 'Find a practitioner' tool on the VBA's website. Visit www.vba.vic.gov.au

ENDS

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