Bendigo Building Site Inspection Program a Government First

Building offices, construction and demolition sites in the Bendigo area will be the first to come under the scrutiny of a new multi-regulator approach to ensuring builders and trades people working in the construction sector are complying with the law.

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA), WorkSafe Victoria, Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV), Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) and Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) are launching the Build Aware program. It aims to increase awareness among practitioners and consumers about the importance of being compliant with building, construction, environment, plumbing and OH&S laws and regulations.

Inspectors from all agencies will target sites in the Bendigo area during the week commencing Monday 17 October.

EPA Chief Executive Officer Nial Finegan, speaking on behalf of the agencies involved, said Build Aware was a multi-agency first for the state’s major regulators.

“It will highlight the importance of complying with building legislation, environment laws and safety regulations and the confidence that brings to the community during building projects,” Mr Finegan said.

“By pooling resources the agencies are expanding the number of available eyes. Each agency has been given information to help spot issues affecting other agencies and will be able to sound the alert on potential non-compliant sites,” he said.

“While they check for issues in their own jurisdictions they will also be on the lookout for potential issues in their co-regulators’ space.”

Build Aware will work with the building sector to provide on-the-spot advice on any compliance questions they have.

Bendigo was selected as the first destination for the program because it has a strong construction base and is a leading regional centre. The agencies will visit other regional centres throughout the year.

Build Aware week will be launched with an advertising campaign in Bendigo to alert the community to the event. Random inspections throughout the Bendigo region will commence on Monday 17 October until Friday 21 October. Agency representatives will also conduct desktop reviews of permits to determine potential non-compliance.

Throughout the year all regulators will continue their normal inspections and will work with building practitioners to provide lessons learned from the program.

Media contacts

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