New Chief Executive for VBA

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) Chairman Bill Kusznirczuk today announced the appointment of Joe Dimasi as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Authority effective from Monday, 9 September.

In announcing the appointment Mr Kusznirczuk said the VBA would benefit from the wealth of regulatory experience Mr Dimasi would bring to the role.

“This appointment will provide further support to the Board in delivering robust industry regulation and stronger consumer protection,” Mr Kusznirczuk said. “This is important as we move to implement the government’s reforms and make the VBA a one-stop shop for domestic building consumer protection and builder and plumber regulation and, over time for architects.

“The experience that Mr Dimasi brings with him from his Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and other Government roles will ensure the Authority builds strong regulatory foundations and maintains a consumer focus.”

Mr Kusznirczuk said Mr Dimasi’s significant years of experience with the ACCC included senior roles setting up regulatory functions in areas including telecommunications, energy, transport and water.

“Mr Dimasi will play a pivotal role in delivering the Board’s expectations for the VBA, to act first and foremost as an effective regulator and ensure integrity and probity of the regulatory framework and the people that work with it,” Mr Kusznirczuk said.

“Mr Dimasi will guide work on improving consumer outcomes providing appropriate balance, fairness and independence while also ensuring that disputes are resolved quickly, fairly and cost efficiently.

“Mr Dimasi will also support the VBA in achieving best practice in regulating the whole building permit system so that buildings are constructed within a strong regulatory framework to promote safety, health and amenity for all people that use and occupy these buildings in our State.

“The building industry is a significant contributor to the State and National economies and we want this to continue while also ensuring that high standards of building compliance are maintained and protected,” Mr Kusznirczuk said.

Mr Dimasi was previously appointed a Commissioner with the ACCC in December 2008. This followed his role as head of ACCC’s Regulatory Affairs Division, a position he had occupied since 1996. Before that, he was an assistant commissioner of the Industry Commission (now the Productivity Commission).
Mr Dimasi has been a senior economist in Victorian Government departments including Treasury, and Premier and Cabinet.

Mr Kusznirczuk said that he and the Board thanked current CEO Greg Hyams for his significant contribution to the establishment of the VBA and for his assistance in transitioning to the new regulatory regime.

“Greg has led the organisation through significant change and provided strong leadership when it was most needed,” Mr Kusznirczuk said.

“I’m very pleased that he will continue with the organisation in a different capacity and that his organisational knowledge will support the new CEO.”