

Victoria's North Western region is 5 Star compliant

Victoria's Building Commission has recently undertaken performance audits in the North Western region of the state, with 81 per cent of new dwellings inspected listed to install either a solar hot water system or water tank.

Building Commissioner Tony Arnel said it was terrific to see a high level of 5 Star compliance, which will help make Victoria's built environment more sustainable and reduce its carbon footprint.



"This is an impressive result, following a week-long audit program that covered 171 building site inspections, with a particular focus on 5 Star compliance," Mr Arnel said.



"This audit program allowed the Commission to gauge practitioners' compliance levels with the Building Regulations 2006. Commission compliance officers also had the opportunity to meet with councils, Registered Building Practitioners and consumers in the North Western regions."

Covering a large area of Victoria's North Western region, including Shepparton, Echuca, Swan Hill and Mildura, the audit placed particular emphasis on compliance with 5 Star compliance, owner-builder work and site signage requirements of the Building Regulations 2006.

"We view 5 Star compliance as particularly important, especially considering the implications it has on the environment and sustainability within the built environment," he said.

"The audits covered a substantial area of the State's North Western regions, and targeted Registered Building Practitioners. The Commission designs its audits to ensure Victoria's building quality is of the highest standard and all sections of the industry are complying with the Act.

"The audits reviewed all stages of the work including drafting, energy assessment, building permit issue, construction and issue."

Thirty sets of drawings for the construction of new dwellings were examined and only 12 identified the position of solar collectors or water tank locations.

Mr Arnel said this problem will be the subject of an intensive audit in March 2008 and that penalties for non-compliance apply.

"There are a range of options open to Commission officers when dealing with practitioners who fail to comply with Victoria's strict building standards. Those failing to deliver will face penalties," Mr Arnel said.

"The vast majority of practitioners do the right thing, and have nothing to worry about. Consumers can also be confident that the Commission is looking after their interests."

Mr Arnel added that the Commission plans to implement a dual audit program to deliver an appropriate and measurable number of practitioner and/or site audits to establish compliance levels.

Further information

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More information about water tanks and solar hot water systems can be found at:

www.greenhouse.gov.au/.../technical/