

# Media release



## FROM THE MINISTER FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**DATE: Thursday, March 24, 2005**

### **SAVING MONEY AT NO COST TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

An interactive Eco-Smart House – a major display at the HIA Home Ideas Show – will help home builders and renovators make financial savings at no cost to the environment, the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Marsha Thomson, said today.

"As people recognise the need for more sustainable housing it is important to be informed and choose carefully when shopping around for energy efficient building materials and products," Ms Thomson said.

"Making the right choices and doing your homework can help you avoid potentially expensive mistakes.

"Consumer Affairs Victoria's *Building and Renovating: A Consumer Guide* will also be available at the Eco-Smart House display. The Guide is a one stop shop for advice on all your home building and renovating needs."

Ms Thomson said potential builders and renovators could walk through the life-size Eco-Smart House – sponsored by the Bracks Government through Consumer Affairs Victoria – to experience innovative and cost effective solutions that save the environment.

"Sustainability in construction and design is now widespread, especially since the introduction of the mandatory four and five star house energy rating," Ms Thomson said.

"To demonstrate this, the Eco-Smart House follows sustainable building principles on passive solar design, indoor air quality,

sustainable materials, waste reduction, preventative maintenance and water conservation.

"The Eco-Smart House is an opportunity for potential builders or renovators to experience first hand, the key aspects of sustainable living.

"It also highlights design and engineering solutions that improve health and safety, including warnings on the risks of removing asbestos."

Ms Thomson said Consumer Affairs Victoria was also on hand at stand i35 to offer free, objective information to help consumers to make better decisions, get what they pay for and inevitably avoid disputes relating to building and renovating.

"If you've decided it's time to undertake your own building or renovating project, Consumer Affairs Victoria offers free advice to help you avoid many of the possible pitfalls through careful planning and sticking closely to domestic building laws and regulations," she said.

"I urge you to take the time to understand the rules and regulations, and most importantly, your rights and responsibilities. If you need advice, visit Consumer Affairs Victoria's stand at i35 or call 1300 55 79 59."

The HIA Home Ideas Show is on at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre from Saturday March 26 to Sunday April 3.

---

[Copyright](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#)