



Heidi Victoria MP
Member for Bayswater District
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

Kim Wells MP
Member for Scoresby
Victorian Treasurer

Nick Wakeling MP
Member for Ferntree Gully
Parliamentary Secretary for Health

M E D I A R E L E A S E

19 June 2012

A smarter way for Knox planning applications

Local MPs Heidi Victoria, Nick Wakeling and Kim Wells are pleased to announce that the Victorian Coalition Government has introduced legislation to State Parliament to improve the application process for planning permits. The new application process will be known as VicSmart and will give straightforward, low impact planning applications a simpler and faster system.

“City of Knox residents will now have greater certainty by applying for small, low impact planning permits through VicSmart. VicSmart will separate these applications out of the current system to allow Knox City Council to focus on larger planning applications” said Kim Wells, Member for Scoresby.

The current application process is a single permit process that does not take into account whether the planning application is a simple or complex application.

Nick Wakeling, Member for Ferntree Gully said “VicSmart will deal with the straightforward planning permit applications quickly and efficiently. This will reduce the red tape in our planning system that has seen an increase over the past ten years”.

“These changes mean that residents who wish to erect a pergola, build or extend a fence within three metres of a street or have minor subdivisions can now have their applications assessed by VicSmart. This will remove the excessive delays in have their planning permits processed which will help the commencement of work sooner,” said Heidi Victoria, Member for Bayswater.

VicSmart has the potential to deal with approximately 10 per cent of annual permit activity which represents more than 5,000 permit applications per year across Victoria and can result in a reduction in assessment time from an average of 62 days to 10 days.

VicSmart will apply to a range of different applications such as development in a flood risk area, managing vegetation, altering road access where the road is or will be in a road Zone Category 1 or erecting small advertising signs more than 30 metres from land in a residential zone where the sign is not lit, electronic or animated.

Applications for high rise, high density development will continue to follow the normal planning permit course.