

Media Release

From the Building Commissioner

Day Date Month Year

Collaborative industry effort creates roof systems for BAL-FZ

Victorian's planning to rebuild on allotments that have been assessed as BAL-FZ under the new Australian Standard can now choose a compliant roofing system after recently completed independent research and testing.

Acting Building Commissioner Sarah McCann-Bartlett welcomed the results of the testing and encouraged building designers and builders to familiarise themselves with the roofing systems to assist and advise bushfires affected communities to rebuild their homes.

"We are pleased to have workable new roofing systems that meet the rigorous testing under the new Standard. It will give people the confidence of knowing that the new roofing system they choose is suitable for those areas that have been assessed as BAL-FZ," Ms McCann-Bartlett said.

The development of the complying roof systems, which was jointly funded by Forest and Wood Products Australia Limited, BlueScope Steel Limited and Promat Australia Pty Ltd, involved a cooperative approach to overcome the challenges associated with the design of construction systems that meet the requirements of the most extreme bushfire attack level under the new Standard.

"I applaud the various industry participants for collaborating on this project. This independent research and testing is a great example of industry partners working together for the greater benefit of the Victorian community. I understand that a similar collaboration will see additional roofing systems and products become available in coming weeks," she said.

The Victorian Government introduced the new residential bushfire construction building standard in March 2009 responding to the overwhelming need to better protect our bushfire affected communities.

"This is a great milestone for all the families and homeowners wishing to rebuild after the devastating bushfires and paves the way for these people to have a choice of building systems that contribute to their safety in the future and also suit their personal needs," said Ms McCann-Bartlett.

Further advice regarding construction details for the compliant roofing systems can be obtained from the Forest and Wood Products Australia website www.fwpa.com.au

For further information visit www.buildingcommission.com.au