



# Building wait is over



**T**HE wait is over for first home buyers in regional Victoria who have held off signing building contracts until July.

State and federal government grants will combine to offer up to \$36,500 for newly-constructed homes.

Until September 30 the Victorian building industry expects an influx in first home buyers who have delayed signing contracts until the beginning of July when both the state and federal governments' financial incentives reach a record high.

"This is a huge boost to local builders who may have had a number of inquiries in recent weeks but not as many sales," Horsham builder and Hotondo Homes franchisee Alan Lynch said.

"Many first home buyers have

been holding off from signing contracts until July so they can get an extra \$7500 of government hand-outs

"The next three months will be an interesting time for Victorian builders as they will see the impact the combined grants have on the building industry.

"The regional bonus will also benefit smaller builders as residents in regional towns are receiving the most financial assistance."

The Housing Industry Association anticipates record levels of buyers purchasing new homes between July 1 and September 30.

In May, 342 first home buyers applied to build a new home in regional Victoria which set a new record and was a rise of 67.5 per cent from the same period last year.

"An increase in sales over the next three months will have a positive

effect on employment within the building industry and will provide builders with work well into next year," Mr Lynch said.

Currently grants worth \$36,500 are only available for homes under \$600,000.

The total is made up of the \$7000 First Home Owner Grant, the \$14,000 First Home Owner Boost, the \$11,000 First Home Bonus and the \$4500 First Home Owner Regional Bonus.

Premier John Brumby said the State Government had invested \$125-million to keep the scheme for an extra year.

The scheme is funded from the 2009 State Budget.

From October 1, the \$14,000 Federal First Home Buyers Boost is halved, reducing the total grant for first home buyers in regional Victoria to \$29,500.



**BUSY TIME:** The building industry expects an influx in first home buyers signing building contracts after the start of the new financial year this week.