

Media Release

The Hon Harriet Shing MP

Minister for the Suburban Rail Loop

Minister for Housing and Building

Minister for Development Victoria and Precincts



Tuesday, 17 March 2026

LABOR SLASHING COSTS AND FIGHTING FOR CONSUMERS

The Allan Labor Government is giving Victorian families the support they need to build or renovate a home.

Minister Shing announced today the *Building and Plumbing Administration and Enforcement Bill 2026* will be introduced to Parliament.

The legislation gives the Building and Plumbing Commission (BPC) strong new powers to protect consumers and ensure dodgy builders face consequences.

Building or buying a home is the single biggest investment most working Victorians will make in their entire lifetimes.

Families deserve to have confidence that work will be done right the first time.

That's why Labor is giving the BPC the power to proactively combat dodgy building practices and work with builders and plumbers to fix problems earlier.

Labor is also giving the BPC the tools to enforce higher civil penalties, broaden the scope of infringement notices and hold directors personally liable for wrongdoing.

We're also making it harder for company directors to escape consequences by phoenixing their business.

A new public interest objective will require builders to put health and safety at the centre of every build.

In addition to this, the *Cladding Safety Victoria Repeal Bill 2026* will be introduced today.

This marks the successful conclusion of Victoria's world-leading cladding rectification program.

The Cladding Levy will be removed, reducing costs by between 47 per cent and 66 per cent for building projects.

While the Liberals voted to block the Building and Plumbing Commission, Labor is putting Victorian families at the heart of the building system.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Housing and Building Harriet Shing

"Every Victorian family deserves a home that's safe, affordable and built to last – and a regulator that's on their side if things go wrong."

"These reforms give the BPC real teeth to cut costs for families and put health and safety where it belongs – at the centre of every build."