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Shepparton first home buyers can look forward to 1 July

First home buyers in Shepparton who purchase a new home from 1 July can look forward to saving an average of \$9349 more than those purchasing an existing home.

Reforms to the First Home Owner Grant are expected to boost the housing market in Shepparton as more first time buyers take the plunge to capitalise on the bonuses and stamp duty savings.

Master Builders Deputy Executive Director Radley de Silva said that targeting the grant to newly constructed homes would give residential builders in the region a much needed boost and support jobs.

“Construction in Shepparton has been dropping in recent years and measures like this will help stimulate new activity,” Mr de Silva said.

Those buying a new house off-the-plan in the Shepparton region will now receive an average of \$10,936 in stamp duty discounts and bonuses - up from \$7702 (a difference of \$3234).

“Incentivising first home buyers to purchase newly constructed homes is a win-win situation for the local economy. More people will be able to afford a home and more builders will remain viable,” said Mr de Silva

“These initiatives will help our industry to rebound, support local businesses and stimulate investment in the community.”

The State Government announced the reforms to the First Home Owner Grant in April. First home buyers will receive a \$10,000 grant when purchasing a new home from 1 July valued less than \$750,000. Their stamp duty concessions will also rise for properties valued up to \$600,000 from 30 to 40 per cent, followed by another increase to 50 per cent in September 2014.

FAST FACTS

- The value of the new domestic building permits issued in Shepparton for the year to March 2013 dropped \$11.5 million to \$81 million.
- The number of new domestic building permits issued was down 12 per cent from 687 for the year to March 2012 to 599 for the year to March 2013.
- The median house price in Shepparton is \$249,500.
- The median vacant residential block price is \$108,000.

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