



Fines for Perth apartment building work

The State Administrative Tribunal has ordered fines and costs totalling \$51,750 in relation to unauthorised building work on a Perth apartment building.

The building company was negligent by reconfiguring the top three floors of the Hay Street building to yield an additional nine apartments between August 2008 and October 2010 without the required approvals.

The builder, who admitted to the allegations made, was fined \$25,000 plus \$1,750 in costs for the negligence. Two directors of the company were ordered to pay \$7,500 each, and a third director, who was also the builder's managing director and supervisor, was ordered to pay \$10,000.

Building Services Board Spokesperson, John Mitchell, said the fines reaffirmed how important it was for directors to ensure that the companies they run have the necessary systems and procedures in place to comply with their legal obligation to have the necessary approvals prior to work being carried out.

"The onus is on the directors of building companies to ensure there are systems in place to avoid carrying out unauthorised work, because at the end of the day they too are accountable," Mr Mitchell said.

It should be noted that in this case, the City of Perth did grant retrospective approval for the building work in question.

Acting Building Commissioner Jane Vallance said the fines were a timely reminder for builders of the consequences of carrying out unauthorised work.

"Unauthorised work can be unsafe work, so it is our priority to protect the public interest by enforcing a minimum standard on registered building practitioners and contractors," Ms Vallance said.

The Building Services Board was established last year as part of the State Government's ongoing reforms of the building industry and replaced the Builders Registration Board, the Painters Registration Board and the Building Surveyors Qualifications Committee.

"The role of the board is to manage disciplinary matters such as this; provide expert input to any decisions; and ensure transparency," Ms Vallance said.

"Having a single regulatory board in place contributes to a fair outcome for all parties involved."

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