

NEWS

Commissioner resigns

VICTORIA'S building and plumbing industry commissioner has resigned just weeks after a damning report found the building industry was not properly regulated and minimum standards were not being met.

Tony Arnel's resignation was announced in a government press release last night. Planning Minister Matthew Guy thanked Mr Arnel for his service in the position over 12 years.

The resignation follows Auditor-General Des Pearson's savaging of the Victorian Building Commission, which regulates Victorian construction

standards, in his report last month. He found that 96 per cent of 401 building permits audited did not meet basic standards and said the system was marked by confusion and lack of accountability.

Greens MP Greg Barber, who called for Mr Arnel's resignation in the wake of the report, said last night he hoped this would lead to a reform of the building permit system.

Former plumbing commissioner Michael Kefford will replace Mr Arnel in two weeks for a one-year stint while a permanent replacement is sought.

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