

Teen's head start to home ownership

HANNAH SILVERMAN
REAL ESTATE
REPORTER

SHE graduated from high school on Friday, and 18-year-old Tania Hillier is also one of the state's newest and youngest homebuyers.

Miss Hillier is one of 28 first-home buyers who have bought a home, at age 18, in the past three months.

"HomeStart was my best option and they told me all the stuff I needed to get together before I turned 18 ... and on my birthday, I went in there with my

“This has given the young ones some hope

mum to get my quote.”

She then signed the contract for a three-bedroom home to be built at Elizabeth Park, taking advantage of the First Home Owners Boost only days before it was halved.

Miss Hillier said she had wanted to buy property since she was 14 and hoped to pay off her first mortgage by the age of 24.

Young people who got their feet in the property door early are reaping the benefits of their investment.

Oracle Lending Solutions director Angelo Benedetti, 36, bought his first home, in Woodville, at age 19.

"For so many years, it (property investing) has been seen as an impossible dream, but these initiatives (First Home Owner's Grant and Boost) have given the young ones some hope," he said.

"Once they have seen how it increases in value ... they should look at further expanding on this."

Of 2229 grants paid between August and November last year, 27 per cent were aged under 25.



KEEN: Tania Hillier on her Elizabeth Park plot.

Picture: CHRIS MANGAN

Sacred insects threaten projects

DEVELOPMENT

MILES
KEMP



COUNCILS and developers have complained they would not be able to comply with new laws protecting Aboriginal songs, dances, trade routes, language and even insects from development activity.

The State Government's Aboriginal advisory committee wants to make the changes as part of a review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act and expand on the current protection given only to significant "sites, objects or remains".

But 22 regional councils have argued neither councils nor developers would be able to guarantee significant items such as songs or insects would be protected when proposing or approving a new development.

Property Council of Australia SA executive director Nathan Paine said the changes would force developers interstate.

"This will have an impact on developments; the impact will be that if developers have to look after 101 different things, including protecting significant insects, they will take their money somewhere else," he said. "It is very wishy-washy; there is no question we need to provide protection for Aboriginal heritage, but the question is where do you start and stop? It is one thing protecting what the community sees as reasonable; but to go into the realm of songs and insects - that is very hard.

"The other likely impact is that people will end up in court trying to find ways around it."

The changes were proposed

by the government's advisory committee in a discussion paper released for comment.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Jay Weatherill would neither reject nor commit to the changes yesterday, nor comment on any submissions.

"But there will be further opportunities for interested parties to provide their feed-

YOUR SAY:

Do you agree with changes to the Act?

24 hour news
adelaidenow.com.au

back before there are any changes made to the Act," he said.

The Provincial Cities Association of SA - including Whyalla, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Mt Gambier - has told the State Government the plan would open a "Pandora's box". PCASA executive officer Ian McSparran wrote to the government complaining that developers and the council could not know "... how or if the proposal could or might impact on a matter of Aboriginal Heritage, say a song, an insect or a plant".

Boy burnt trying to save brother

A TEENAGE boy suffered serious burns to his hands trying in vain to save his 4-year-old brother in a house fire in Sydney's west.

Corey Weir, 13, ran from the

Rosemeadow house with his hands and arms covered in blisters after trying to pat out flames engulfing Damien Weir, who later died. Neighbours labelled Corey a hero.

WHITNEY

Nothing But Love

World Tour 2010

Special Guest

Anthony Callea

Presented by Andrew McManus

On Sale
FRI 11
DEC

HOUSTON

Thu 4 Mar

Adelaide

Entertainment Centre

ticketek.com.au 132 849

ampresents.com • whitneyhouston.com