

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT

Screening of Temporary Residents

- The *Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Regulations 1989* were amended on 26 May 2010 to require temporary residents to obtain Government approval before buying residential real estate. Temporary residents who fail to comply risk prosecution under the *Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975* (FATA).
 - Temporary residents were screened under the Policy from 24 April to 26 May.
- Conditions are being imposed on all temporary residents approved to buy vacant land on which to build dwellings or to buy an established dwelling to use as their residence in Australia (who must sell the property when it ceases to be their residence). These are recorded in the Foreign Investment Management System database to allow compliance officers to follow up in due course.
- The FIRB website has been updated to reflect the changes. New forms for temporary residents have been created and added to the website. New staff have been engaged to handle increased applications and queries. Since 24 April, applications have approximately quadrupled.
- Further enhancements to information on the website are being developed as a result of consultations with State and Territory real estate institutes and law societies.
- Treasury is developing an online application system to allow the electronic submission of applications for real estate purchases. This will replace the paper applications now used. The system which is based on existing eligibility and other requirements will ease the administrative burden on applicants and allow more timely approvals to be provided.

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