

## What is the EasyBiz project?

The EasyBiz project allows small and home-based businesses operating in a participating council the option to use the internet to identify and understand the need for various Local Government licenses, permits and registrations, in the areas of land management, health, food handling and safety, local laws, planning, and building.

Depending on each council, small and home-based businesses can complete and submit application forms and/or pay application fees - either online or via traditional means (fax, post or in person). Councils receive this information and determine whether the license, permit or registration will be granted.

**31 Victorian Councils** are participating in the project, led by the City of Whittlesea. Due to launch in April 2007, the EasyBiz project is set up so that **all Victorian Councils can participate** after the launch.

Funding for the EasyBiz project is from the Commonwealth Government's Regulation Reduction Incentive Fund. This is the first step towards the vision of a one stop shop for all government compliance.

## Why do small and home-based businesses benefit?

The EasyBiz project **reduces the time and effort** required by small and home-based businesses to comply with local government regulations.

- **Flexibility.** Businesses can discover the licence, permit or registration they need, and prepare and submit applications 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, without visiting council.
- **More time to run the business.** Businesses can re-use data across forms, which reduce the time and effort to comply with regulations.
- **Confidence.** Businesses obtain online guidance including information on the rules and regulations and fees regarding an activity or application. Through integration with other sites providing local, state and federal licenses, permits and registrations are also accessible. A record of the guidance received is also provided.
- **Easier and less costly.** User friendly website designs make it easier to understand and comply with requirements, and to understand what to do in order to apply for a licence, permit or registration. Consistent processes for businesses dealing with multiple councils and state agencies.

## Why are Councils participating?

- **A clear message to business.** Shows small and home-based businesses that the Council is committed to assisting them in setting up and operating in their Council area.
- **Better quality applications.** Businesses are more likely to provide complete applications, particularly with online forms that can be instantly validated to ensure all essential information is provided. Online forms remove the problem of unreadable handwriting.
- **Resource benefits.** Less time following up applications for corrections and further information. Less manual data entry into council IT systems. More time on assessing applications and higher value activities. A central, independently managed facility to run the infrastructure and processes means less cost to councils and increased council exposure.
- **Flexibility.** A service delivery platform that uses any web portal including an EasyBiz portal, council's website, and State and Federal Government portals.
- **Connecting with other Councils / Government.** Participating councils learn from each other, develop standards and benchmarks, and collaborate on best practise. Councils interconnect with other services via the use of data standards consistent with State and Federal Government. Councils can work together to extend the service to include other licences, permits and registrations into the future.

## Need more information?

Visit [www.easybiz.vic.gov.au](http://www.easybiz.vic.gov.au) or email [EasyBiz@skmconsulting.com](mailto:EasyBiz@skmconsulting.com)