

# Brimbank Leader

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 HOUSE OF THE WEEK

# Site a trouble magnet

But 'not a risk' says council

Development | Caitlin Ryan

NEIGHBOURS are calling for the demolition of an unfinished house in Sunshine West, claiming it has become a rubbish dump and haven for drug users.



The unfinished Sunshine West house.

Residents say the property, on the corner of Corella Rd and Briar Way, is littered with syringes, debris and rubbish.

"Provided the building is structurally sound and not a danger to the public, there are no restrictions on the time a building can be vacant or uncompleted," Mr Patterson said.

Trenco Kutlesovski has lived next door to the house for six years.

Despite concerns from nearby residents, council inspectors have visited the site and said the structure "though uncompleted does not constitute a risk to the public".

"It's ridiculous, every night there are people going to the house and making noise," Mr Kutlesovski said. "There are people jumping from scaffolding and needles everywhere."

"If the structure does become unsound or creates a risk the council can intervene and issue the building notices or order to the owner of the site to rectify the problem," Mr Patterson said.

"When it is going to be finished? Another resident said children use the house "as a kind of adventure playground".

The state Building Commission is responsible for enforcing actions against owners and builders where permits have been issued by private surveyors. Non-compliance with a building order can incur fines of up to \$12,000 if the matter proceeds to the courts.

Brimbank Council records show private group VA Building Surveyors were issued a building permit in 2004, which expired two years from the date of issue — in December 2006.

VA Building Surveyors could not be contacted before the *Leader* deadline.

State Government legislation stipulates a two-year permit be issued for domestic developments.

Council's acting city development general manager Carey Patterson said there had been no correspondence received to indicate the permit had been extended.



**SADDLE UP:** Volunteer bike counters are needed in Brimbank. Australia's largest visual bike count, Super Tuesday, is on March 6, and will take place for the first time in Brimbank. The count collects data on bike riding to help local councils identify how bicycle facilities can be improved. Counters (including Khanh Nguyen, pictured) who complete a successful count can nominate a Bicycle User Group (BUG), school or club to receive a \$50 reward. Details: [supertuesday.com.au](http://supertuesday.com.au)

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