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BEWARE: DODGY BITUMEN LAYERS RESURFACE

People in the State's South East are being warned not to engage with itinerant traders offering bitumen-laying services, as they will probably end up with disappointing results.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Jennifer Rankine, has warned, "People should be immediately suspicious if they're approached by these roving tradespeople. The end product is typically of very poor quality, over-priced, and the traders quickly disappear to avoid facing confrontation arising from their shoddy workmanship."

"The traders offer customers quick, cheap services but they demand immediate payment and do not provide any receipts or contract documents."

People who purchase goods or services from a door-to-door trader are legally entitled to a 10-day cooling off period, where the product or service costs over \$50 and customers should be given a form enabling them to cool off.

"These sellers appear to be breaching fair trading legislation by ignoring consumer rights to cool off. They should not be demanding any money or performing any work until the 10 day cooling off period has passed," Ms Rankine said.

Reports have been made to the Office of Consumer Affairs (OCBA) in relation to the itinerant traders. Officers are pursuing the information supplied, including vehicle registration details that appear to link the bitumen layers with a group of itinerant traders well known to fair trading authorities.

"These fly by night traders are quick to flee the scene when they sense any threat to their operations. OCBA is liaising with SA Police about the vehicle registration details and other intelligence that might help track down these particular traders."

"Dealing with such sellers is simply too risky. Often they're not licensed to perform the work, do a half-baked job, take any money they can swindle up front and then promptly disappear."

Anyone who may have information about these itinerant bitumen layers should contact OCBA on 8204 9777 and country callers on 131 882 (local call cost).