

# News Release

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**Hon Gail Gago**  
Minister for State/Local Government  
Relations  
Minister for the Status of Women  
Minister for Consumer Affairs  
Minister Government Enterprises  
Minister Ast Minister for Transport, Infrastructure & Energy

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## **DODGY BITUMEN LAYERS BACK IN SA**

South Australians should be on the lookout for itinerant traders offering substandard bitumen laying services after concerns they're targeting commercial properties in Adelaide's northern suburbs.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Gail Gago issued several warnings last year for consumers to be on the look out for the door-to-door sales scam, which was reported to the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) by suspicious consumers in the North and South East regions of the state.

"Now it appears the scammers are back and consumers are again warned to be wary and on the look out for any offers that sound too good to be true," says Minister Gago.

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

"It appears that a small group are involved, equipped with road laying machinery and a light truck. Consumers have also reported that some of the group have English and Irish accents."

Minister Gago says in the latest incident, the itinerant scammers are breaching door-to-door sales provisions and approaching commercial properties.

"I have been informed that the group has been approaching commercial businesses, offering to lay bitumen driveways with materials they say are leftover from other work," says Ms Gago.

"They charge high prices and in some cases, will escort consumers to the bank to collect money. The work is substandard and the traders are unlicensed."

Consumers who purchase goods or services from a door-to-door trader are legally entitled to a 10-day cooling off period, where the purchase costs more than \$50. Consumers should be given a form enabling them to cool off.

"These fraudsters are good at giving customers the slip and making it hard to track their next move. They usually leave as soon as they've been paid, well before the consumer realises they're the victim of shoddy work," says the Minister.

"Consumers should stick to the basics – don't pay until the work is done satisfactorily, demand receipts, contract documents, proof of ID and proof of the trader's building work contractor's licence."

*Consumers who may have information about these itinerant bitumen layers should contact OCBA on 8204 9777, or for country callers 131 882 (local call cost).*