

About half the approvals were for temporary residents wanting to buy a house as their principal residence.

A further 988 approvals were granted to investors to buy vacant land for residential subdivision or to build a house.

The board report shows Victoria is the state most sought after by foreign investors, followed by Queensland and New South Wales.

Although the Government announced last month that it would adopt a more stringent approval process, experts claim the latest changes will have little effect on the market.

Opposition finance spokesman Joe Hockey said it was clear foreign investment was having an upward impact on housing prices.

"The Government has been all over the shop on foreign invest-

purchase Australia and, in part, Australia on residence visas of existing dwell

In 2007-08, the investment in and commerce Australia was from the US, United Arab following year, S topped the list

Stars face fines as voter slouches

FOOTY star Buddy Franklin, comedian Hamish Blake and stage star Barry Humphries are among the Australians who are in danger of being fined for not being properly enrolled for state and federal elections.

Almost 1.4 million Australians are not enrolled to vote in this year's federal election despite the nation set to go to the

polls to choose their next Prime Minister as early as next month.

About one in 11 Australians have not registered to vote with the Australian Electoral Commission with at least 1.39 million of more than 15 million eligible voters not on the list.

Go to www.aec.gov.au for enrolment information.

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Senate F&PA Committee

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Inquire: Budget Estimates 10-11

Date/Time: 27 May '10

Witness Name: Sen. Abetz

Organisation: