

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
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Building industry calls for new Premier to strengthen Victoria's construction industry

Master Builders today called for new premier Dr Denis Napthine to support moves to boost the productivity of Victoria's construction sector.

"We congratulate Dr Napthine on his elevation to the premiership and hope he will act to boost jobs and stimulate investment in our industry," said Executive Director, Brian Welch.

"The building and construction industry is the lifeblood of the Victorian economy.

"Victorians need our industry to be strong to deliver them the new homes, offices, workplaces and infrastructure they rely on and deserve.

Mr Welch said that as the state's second-largest provider of full-time jobs, the construction industry was looking for action by Premier Napthine to:

- Simplify Victoria's complex planning laws and encouraging councils to make timely planning decisions;
- Boost industry productivity and deliver new major construction projects;
- Cut red tape for businesses;
- Address housing affordability; and
- Tackle illegal and disruptive union activity.

"We hope Dr Napthine continues to protect Victoria's finances so that new major projects can be funded that will support our industry, enhance the liveability of our community and generate new economic activity," Mr Welch said.

"Cutting red tape and simplifying planning laws will free up builders, many of whom own small businesses, to spend more time building and less time filling in bureaucratic paperwork.

"Addressing housing affordability is vital to ensuring every Victorian has the opportunity to fulfil the great Australian dream of owning their own home."

Mr Welch also thanked outgoing premier Ted Baillieu for his support of the industry.

"Under Ted Baillieu's leadership, significant progress has been made towards a much needed east west road tunnel, new rail infrastructure and redevelopment of the Port of Melbourne and Melbourne Park," he said.

"He showed the courage of his convictions in combating unlawful and destructive union action in our industry and standing up to Canberra on issues like rising construction costs.

"We wish Mr Baillieu and his family the best for the future and thank him for his service."

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