

# media release



**MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY**

Master Builders Association of Victoria  
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## **Zone reforms to cut red tape for builders**

Reforms to commercial and industrial zones unveiled by the Napthine Government today will provide much-needed reform to support investment and activity in Victoria's building and construction industry.

"Victoria's planning system is overly-complex and often acts to stifle investment aimed at building better, more connected communities," said Master Builders' Executive Director, Brian Welch.

"Today's reforms will simplify planning zones and support investment in both commercial and industrial buildings across the state.

"Construction jobs will be supported by these reforms, allowing our industry to be better placed to build the offices, retail centres, bulky goods zones and workplaces that will provide long-term employment opportunities for all Victorians.

"We strongly endorse the government's concept of creating a 20-minute city, which will enshrine our status as one of the world's most liveable communities for years to come."

Data from Victoria's Building Commission shows the value of commercial building permits has declined 34 per cent between 2008 and 2012.

"There has been a significant downturn in commercial building activity in recent years, which has not been helped by our suffocating planning laws," Mr Welch said.

"Cutting red tape will create more opportunities to drive investment in commercial building and stimulate activity."

Minor changes are also being made to the growing industrial building sector, with the Building Commission reporting a 68 per cent increase in the value of these building permits since 2008.

"The zoning changes announced today will support Victoria's construction and manufacturing industries, which are the state's two largest providers of full-time jobs," said Mr Welch.

"Master Builders encourages the Napthine Government to continue efforts that will reduce regulatory burden that strangles our industry, both through its forthcoming Metropolitan Planning Strategy and beyond."

Under the planning zones, five existing building zones will be merged into two new commercial zones. Industrial zones will no longer restrict office space and permit limited commercial development in some areas.

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