

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
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Green light for East West Tunnel: Budget delivers building jobs today for growth in the future

Today's State Budget will secure construction jobs now while delivering significant benefits for Victorians in the future according to Master Builders.

Treasurer Michael O'Brien's first budget dubbed 'Building for Growth' reveals record infrastructure investment of \$6.1 billion in 2013/14, rising to \$6.6 billion the following year.

Funding has been flagged for a host of major projects including some called for by the Master Builders. Among them are:

- A commitment to start works on the East West Link (Stage 1) by the end of 2014.
- \$10 million to progress planning for the Melbourne Metro rail connection.
- \$110 million to plan for the future multi-billion upgrade of the Port of Hastings.
- \$280 million for road upgrades and maintenance projects.
- \$52 million for early works to remove railway crossings.
- \$203 million to build five new schools.
- \$629 million for key hospital upgrades.
- New hospitals for Bendigo, Monash and the redevelopment of the Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.

"Our industry stands ready, willing and able to build the schools, hospitals and transport infrastructure today's budget funds," Master Builders Association of Victoria Executive Director Brian Welch said.

"As CityLink was a game changer for Melbourne, the East West Tunnel will drive economic opportunities for decades to come.

"The Link will generate 3200 jobs and slash travel times between the Eastern Freeway and CityLink to an estimated 7 minutes, with motorists bypassing up to 16 sets of traffic lights. It is a landmark project for our city.

"This project will ensure the Victorian construction industry retains much sought after skills that may have been lost forever to other states, particularly around tunnelling.

"The state now has a solid financial platform to make these investments to help secure our status as one of the world's most liveable communities."

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