

# media release



**MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY**

Master Builders Association of Victoria  
ABN: 38 004 255 654

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## **Construction industry suffers as Gillard fiddles with IR laws**

The newest data released today shows that Australia's industrial relations laws continue to hurt the construction industry.

The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics' data reveal a 45 per cent increase on working days lost in the national construction sector – this equates to 8700 working days lost during the March quarter.

“Changes to workplace laws and industrial delays continue to plague the construction industry,” said Master Builders Deputy Executive Director, Radley de Silva.

An additional 2700 working days were lost compared to this time last year, adding unnecessary delays and significant costs to building projects.

“Days lost to industrial disputes in our sector reached a seven-year high in 2012 and this trend continues to rise while construction unions run rampant,” Mr de Silva said.

“This data highlights why the Federal Parliament should reject moves by the Gillard Government to rush through IR laws that will only benefit their union sponsors,

“What we need is to restore the balance in our nation's workplace laws and ensure a tough cop is on the beat.”

Mr de Silva said that a healthy construction sector was imperative to Victoria's economic viability and should be protected.

“Our vibrant construction industry ensures we get the schools, hospitals and homes we need, he said.

“It's important that industrial relations laws protect our viability to ensure we get this much needed infrastructure on time and on budget.”

## **FAST FACTS**

- ABS data reveals a 45 per cent increase on working days lost in the construction sector during the March quarter.
- 8700 working days have been lost during the March quarter.
- 2700 more working days were lost, as compared to the same time last year.

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