

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
ABN: 38 004 255 654

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Streamlined bushfire regulations are a victory for common sense

Master Builders has welcomed changes made to Victoria's bushfire planning regulations that will provide greater certainty to residents, landowners and tradespeople living and building homes in bushfire designated areas.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy adopted reforms that will allow more flexibility for people building on land with a higher Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) rating.

"Common sense has prevailed as the government adopts these streamlined bushfire regulations," Master Builders Association of Victoria CEO, Radley de Silva said.

"These reforms will provide greater certainty to both the residents and landowner living in these bushfire prone communities, as well as the builders and tradespeople that will work with them."

Key features of the reforms include:

- Allowing private bushfire bunkers as an alternative safety measure;
- Allowing vegetation clearance to achieve defendable space;
- Ensuring the assessment of bushfire risk is consistent with the Australian Standard;
- Allowing more sensible bushfire safety measures in new master-planned estates; and
- Allowing homes to be built on 'infill' lots surrounded by other dwellings.

A new \$700,000 assistance fund will also enable affected landowners and councils to streamline planning processes.

"The planning process is the most onerous aspect for builders and tradespeople and we trust that this new fund will allow landowners to efficiently navigate this," Mr de Silva said.

"Safety is paramount in bushfire designated areas and these regulations will allow builders and tradespeople to fulfil the requirements for their clients in an efficient and sensible manner," Mr de Silva said.

"The flow on affect of streamlining the planning process and regulations will be housing stock built to higher safety standards. This is a win for the entire community."

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