

# media release



**MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY**

Master Builders Association of Victoria  
ABN: 38 004 255 654

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## **Construction costs to rise if East West Link contracts are not honoured**

Proceeding with the Eastern Section of Melbourne's new East West Link will drive jobs in the Victorian construction industry, according to Master Builders.

As the Napthine Government has moved to sign contracts for the first stage of works, the construction industry's peak body called for all politicians to unite behind the project.

"It's vital for our state's reputation and Melbourne's future that all politicians commit to this job-generating, investment-creating, shovel-ready project," said Master Builders CEO, Radley de Silva.

"Our industry wants to deliver the next wave of iconic Melbourne landmarks and infrastructure projects – including East West Link, the cross-city rail tunnel and Federation Square East.

"The construction sector, which is the state's second largest provider of full-time jobs, stands to secure up to 3700 jobs for this stage of East West Link alone.

"Our sector is excited to deliver a great piece of infrastructure that will raise the bar in terms of road, tunnel and urban design."

Master Builders warned that moves to rip up the East West Link contracts could have significant impacts for Victoria.

"This state's hard-fought standing as a great place to do business will be jeopardised if the contracts now signed are not honoured," Mr de Silva said.

"Construction costs could rise dramatically if builders are forced to factor in new risks of future governments throwing their signed contracts into the paper shredder after every election.

"This would then add millions onto the costs of the new schools, hospitals, roads, public transport and other infrastructure projects Victorians both need and deserve."

Master Builders is part of an alliance of 10 major industry and membership groups advocating for the East West Link project.

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