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PM'S PITCH FOR ABCC IS A DEFINING MOMENT FOR VICTORIA, MASTER BUILDERS SAYS

"Master Builders Association of Victoria is encouraged by Prime Minister Turnbull's renewed push for the reintroduction of the *Building and Construction Industry (Improving Productivity) Bill 2013 (ABCC Bill)* in the 45th federal parliament," Master Builders Association of Victoria CEO Radley de Silva said.

"The Prime Minister's willingness to consider some changes to the provisions of the bill makes it clear that it is imperative we pass this legislation to achieve crucial reforms," Mr de Silva said. "But it must retain teeth to secure the rule of law to ensure the strength of our industry."

"Victoria's population grows at the fastest rate of any Australian state, and the unchecked lawless behavior of the union makes life harder and less profitable for all Victorians by raising the cost of the infrastructure they need," he said.

"Not having the ABCC as a reliable watchdog, alert to union coercion tactics, cripples the construction sector's ability to deliver projects on time and affordably, and that hurts all Victorians now and for generations to come."

"Intimidation and bullying tactics drain critical construction projects of time and money required for the roads, hospitals, aged care facilities and schools on which our community depends. Every single Victorian loses," Mr de Silva said.

The ABCC Bill has a specific focus on unlawful industrial action, coercion, discrimination and industrially motivated pickets, including increased maximum penalties. It will give effect to the *Building and Construction Industry (Fair and Lawful Building Sites) Code 2014* – prohibiting contractors, wishing to perform federally funded work, from having enterprise agreements or other arrangements that contain restrictive work practices or discriminatory provisions.

"Master Builders welcomes the commitment by the government to reintroduce the ABCC Bill and urges senators to support the bill at this critical opportunity," Mr de Silva said.

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