

Wednesday 21 September 2016

## MASTER BUILDERS: COFFERS PRIMED FOR CRUCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS LIKE NORTH EAST LINK

“The windfall sale amount of the Port of Melbourne means crucial infrastructure projects need no longer languish in the conceptual stage,” Master Builders Association CEO Radley de Silva says.

“They can become real, and planning for shovel-readiness should be the next major step.”

“We are pleased the state government has pledged to spend the \$9.7 billion from the port sale on transport projects, and the North East Link proposal is a hallmark example of what could be achieved,” Mr de Silva said.

“The successful sale of the port’s long-term lease boosts confidence that Victoria is a great place to live and do business,” he said. “Following that with shrewd investment in infrastructure that will allow both Victorians and the state economy to thrive is the best demonstration we are ready to build on that good fortune.”

Increased investment in transportation infrastructure projects also means more jobs in the building and construction sector, which is the state’s second-highest full-time employer.

Treasurer Tim Pallas was quoted as saying the state “couldn’t have picked a better time” to sell its long-term lease.

“That says a lot about this occurrence,” Mr de Silva said. “The stars have aligned for investing in transport projects. It’s time to capitalise on this unique opportunity.”

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