



## MEDIA RELEASE

13 September 2021

### **Master Builders Victoria and Property Council Joint Media Release: A safe and vaccinated building and construction industry vital to Victoria**

Master Builders Victoria and the Property Council have welcomed the Victorian Government's announcement to boost building and construction workforce vaccination rates and undertake a four-week compliance and enforcement blitz to ensure worksites are properly implementing COVIDSafe measures.

The Victorian Government will prioritise 20,000 Pfizer vaccines and an unlimited amount of AstraZeneca vaccines for building and construction workers to supercharge vaccination rates. Directed by the Department of Justice and Community Safety, Authorised Officers and WorkSafe Inspectors will undertake a four-week enforcement blitz to audit and assess COVIDSafety on worksites and ensure all sites are complying with Government regulations. It is expected that Victorian Building Authority officers will join the blitz later this week, using Public Health and Wellbeing powers.

Master Builders Victoria CEO Rebecca Casson backed today's announcements, which had long been requested by industry.

"The building and construction industry is critical to jobs and the economy but it's just as critical that our industry continues to enforce COVIDSafe measures," Ms Casson said.

"While the Treasurer acknowledged that our industry has gone above and beyond to stay COVIDSafe and remain open, it was made clear that the risks in managing the Delta variant are now much higher.

"We acknowledge that our industry's obligation to continue to work comes with significant responsibilities.

"Everyone employed in the building and construction industry must take this warning very seriously, otherwise our sector's permitted worker status will be at risk."

Victorian Executive Director of the Property Council of Australia, Danni Hunter, also backed the new building and construction blitz.

"Higher vaccination rates and thoroughly diligent compliance with all COVID prevention measures will ensure building and construction can continue to make an overwhelmingly positive contribution to Victoria," Ms Hunter said.



332 Albert Street  
East Melbourne, VIC 3002  
ABN 38 004 255 654 RTO 3935

GPO Box 544  
Melbourne, VIC 3001

(03) 9411 4555  
[www.mbav.com.au](http://www.mbav.com.au)

“That’s why we’ve supported the Master Builders Victoria campaign to increase vaccination rates and say to the whole building, construction and property sector ‘Let’s Get the Job Done’ and get Victoria moving again.

“The Government has thrown down the gauntlet to the building and construction industry to reach a high threshold of 90 per cent first dose vaccination before it can re-open at 50 per cent capacity. But we also need a means to measure this vaccination rate so we have a clear roadmap to increase capacity of the industry.”

Ms Casson said prioritising vaccination access for building and construction workers was a vital step in keeping the sector open and safe.

“That’s why we have launched a campaign ‘Get the Job Done’ to encourage every building and construction worker who is eligible to get vaccinated and ensure we can continue to protect jobs and deliver important economic activity for Victoria,” she said.

Ms Casson said the success of the sector in preventing the spread of COVID-19 until now showed precautions and measures have worked to keep building and construction sites safe and open.

“The recent outbreaks underscore the importance of everyone in the building and construction sector continuing to follow COVIDSafe protocols to keep sites safe and operating,” she said.

“Our industry will continue to work with the Victorian Government on a vaccination roadmap so that we can start to increase worksite capacities and get on with the job of building the infrastructure, homes and projects Victoria will need for decades to come.”

**ENDS**

### *Background*

- *Building and construction accounts for 46 per cent of our state’s tax revenue.*
- *Every single day that our industry is locked down, the projected figures suggest that’s \$455 million every day lost in revenue.*
- *That’s \$63 million in lost wages as well.*
- *Building and construction is critical to the state’s economy being the largest full-time employer in Victoria, supporting more than 320,000 jobs.*

**IS YOUR BUILDER A MASTER BUILDER?**



## **MASTER BUILDERS VICTORIA**

[www.mbav.com.au](http://www.mbav.com.au)

Since 1875, Master Builders Victoria has grown to be Victoria's leading building and construction industry voice.

A broad-based organisation, we service the needs of the entire industry, from residential to commercial and engineering businesses, principal contractors to subcontractors, manufacturers and suppliers.

We continually assist in developing the skills of our members by providing access to a wide range of services and proactive representation to government and industry. Master Builders Victoria also serves the community by fostering best practice work standards and acting as an independent advisory service for our industry.

### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

Andrew Jefferson, Media and Communications Manager, [ajefferon@mbav.com.au](mailto:ajefferon@mbav.com.au), 0409 985 428

Eric Allilomou, Senior Policy and Media Advisor, [eallilomou@propertycouncil.com.au](mailto:eallilomou@propertycouncil.com.au), 0448 291 236

**IS YOUR BUILDER A MASTER BUILDER?**

