

MEDIA RELEASE

27 September 2020

Statement by Master Builders Victoria on latest roadmap announcements

Master Builders Victoria CEO Rebecca Casson today welcomed the easing of some restrictions for the building and construction industry, and vowed to continue to advocate for renovations to recommence in Melbourne - as soon as the public health data allows - ahead of the next roadmap milestone date of October 19. Today's changes primarily focus on large scale construction, with some minor adjustments for small scale construction.

"Over the past few weeks, we've worked with government to keep small scale construction safe and open. As a result, some changes - such as concessions for pre- base and post fixing - have already been made in the weeks leading up to this announcement. Therefore, the changes today for this part of our sector are more limited.

"Today's announcement for small scale construction of an increase in the movement among sites for specialist contractors, from 3 to 5 sites per week, will help ease bottlenecks that continue to develop.

"In addition, following joint advocacy from Master Builders Victoria and other employer associations, display homes, sales suites and land sales offices will now be allowed to re-open by appointment-only, subject to COVIDSafe requirements. This is a significant win and will greatly assist the market for new home builds.

"The easing of restrictions for large scale construction follows what was foreshadowed in the roadmap announcement of three weeks ago. An increase from 25% to 85% of the available workforce will mean an increase in productivity, which will have a significant effect on the Victorian economy. Many projects will be able to get moving again, and there will be a large proportion of the building and construction industry workforce that will finally get back on the tools tomorrow."

"However, there are still areas of our industry that are not able to go back to work tomorrow, despite their proven ability to work safely. We will continue to advocate for changes on restrictions related to renovations at inhabited dwellings, including those that work outdoors and can abide by all safety protocols featured in the COVID-19 roadmap. Today's concessions for gardening and landscaping work to commence are welcome, but this sector needs much more if businesses are to restart before it's too late."

"Given the numbers of workers that are going back to work tomorrow, it's timely that on Friday we worked with other 17 other employer associations and unions to launch a major new COVID safe campaign across the building, construction and development industry."

"Key COVID safety messages from this campaign have been translated to 15 different languages to ensure everyone in our industry and community get the messages."

ENDS

MASTER BUILDERS VICTORIA

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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.

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