

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
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Builders want 'Strong Cop' not 'Lollypop Man'

The Master Builders Association of Victoria today launched its new website 'Strong Cop on the Beat' as part of its campaign to defeat the Federal Government's legislation, which waters down the ABCC's powers.

With the launch of Strong Cop, builders, workers and supporters of law and order will be able to email key politicians voicing their opposition to the Federal Government's plans to neuter the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC).

Master Builders Executive Director, Brian Welch, said an effective industry policeman was essential for stamping out intimidation and stand-over tactics in the building and construction industry.

"The legislation currently before Parliament puts the future of our industry at risk by watering down the policing capacity of the new ABCC," he said.

"Victorian building unions have been running rampant since the election of the Federal Government in 2007, with the Westgate Bridge and the Royal Children's Hospital being the focal point of violence, intimidation and costly union disputation.

"Rather than adopting a zero tolerance approach to these incidents, the Federal Government is rewarding bad behaviour.

"The legislation contradicts the Federal Government's promise to maintain a strong cop on the beat, reducing the Commission's effectiveness through bureaucracy and reduced penalties.

"The Federal Government's idea of a Strong Cop is our idea of a Lollypop Man.

"For much of the past four years, the building industry has been enjoying increasing industrial harmony thanks to the ABCC and its important powers and penalty provisions. This industrial harmony has delivered projects ahead of time and on budget, higher productivity and more pay in the pockets of building industry workers.

"Prior to the ABCC, the 'law of the jungle' ruled where stand over tactics, wildcat stoppages and abuse and thuggery were endemic to the industry. This behaviour destroyed jobs, undermined investment and even threatened lives.

"The Strong Cop website will perform three key roles:

- Keep industry participants regularly informed about the latest ABCC related developments;
- Act as a central hub to coordinate industry efforts to retain the ABCC and its important powers and penalty provisions; and,
- Provide industry, media and the government with the current and historical facts on industrial relations activity within Australia."

'Strong Cop on the Beat' can be found at www.mbav.com.au/strongcop

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