

# media release



**MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY**

Master Builders Association of Victoria  
ABN: 38 004 255 654

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## **Builders welcome '10/30 Right' to clear vegetation**

The Master Builders Association of Victoria has welcomed the State Government announcement that Victorian home owners will be able to remove native vegetation around homes without a permit.

A condition of the Association's support for new bushfire building regulations, announced in March, was an assurance that the management of native vegetation would be addressed.

Master Builders Executive Director, Brian Welch, welcomed the announcement as a commonsense response following the devastating Black Saturday Bushfires in February.

"This announcement is a victory for commonsense and timed well with the onset of this year's bushfire season just weeks away," Mr Welch said.

"Over the past six months, the debate over managing native vegetation has shifted from preserving the environment to preserving life and property.

"This shift reflects the community recognition that private land owners and not environmental activists should dictate how native vegetation around homes is managed in Victoria.

"With the next bushfire season just weeks away, Victorian residents will now be able to better prepare their properties without fear of breaking the law or awaiting approval from local government.

"We consider this area of reform to be of greater importance than the new building regulations.

"The Master Builders Association is concerned that the community is developing a false sense of security about homes being built to the upgraded bushfire standards.

"The building regulations in isolation would only marginally improve safety. The primary role of a home is to shield its inhabitants from normal weather conditions, not natural disasters.

"When these new regulations are implemented with sensible native vegetation controls around homes, we will see a big step forward in bushfire protection.

"We welcome the Victorian Government's announcement and look forward to further recommendations from the Bushfire Royal Commission," he said.

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