

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
ABN: 38 004 255 654

10/09/2009

ABCC Reform Bill condones lawless culture

The Master Builders Association of Victoria today urged the Australian Senate to vote down the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) Reform Bill or risk condoning the growing culture of lawlessness and violence in the Victorian construction industry.

The call comes as a Senate Committee Report on the ABCC Reform Bill was released today.

Master Builders Executive Director, Brian Welch, said Master Builders supports the Coalition Senators' Dissenting Report recommending that the Bill not be passed, and rejected the key findings of the ALP and Greens' majority Report.

"We agree with the dissenting Report's conclusion that 'a building inspectorate with fewer powers will risk a return to industrial lawlessness in the industry'," Mr Welch said.

"However, the majority view of the ABCC Senate Report released today reveals a fundamental lack of understanding of the unique challenges and dangers which exist within the Victorian building and construction industry.

"By supporting the passage of the ABCC Reform Bill, majority report Senators appear to be oblivious to the acts of violence and intimidation which have plagued the Westgate Bridge and Royal Children's Hospital sites in recent months.

"Over 50 per cent of all ABCC cases come from Victoria. Clearly, this State has a law and order problem which requires continued attention.

"By passing the ABCC Reform Bill, the Federal Government will be weakening the only regulatory body capable of tackling acts of violence and intimidation in the building and construction industry.

"Master Builders calls on the Australian Senate to vote down this Bill or risk condoning the growing culture of lawlessness and violence in the construction industry."

Master Builders has been campaigning to have the ABCC Reform Bill defeated in the Australian Senate via its Strong Cop on the Beat website: www.mbav.com.au/strongcop

ENDS

Further information: Brian Welch, Executive Director, 0411 501 075

Media enquiries: Greg Haraldson, Media Adviser, 0438 427 766 ggharaldson@mbav.com.au