

# media release



**MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY**

Master Builders Association of Victoria  
ABN: 38 004 255 654

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## **The Black Saturday Rebuild – One Year On**

As the first anniversary of Black Saturday is commemorated today, the building industry's thoughts are with those who lost loved ones, possessions and property in the tragic Black Saturday bushfires.

The building industry will continue to play a key role in the recovery from Black Saturday, says the Master Builders Association of Victoria. Executive Director, Brian Welch, said the first twelve months has seen good progress in rebuilding damaged communities, but more work is to be done.

"The reconstruction of homes has commenced some are already completed. Victorian builders have also erected temporary shelters so that affected residents can stay in their local area near friends, family and employment. The reconstruction of commercial buildings such as schools and shops has also commenced," he said.

"We've seen swift regulatory action to adjust the way we build in bushfire prone areas. New requirements for construction in bushfire prone areas were introduced in March 2009, which provided certainty and reduced delays for those rebuilding.

"The State Government also exempted much of the reconstruction from requiring a building permit, further reducing red tape.

"As it reviewed building regulations, the government has also focused on native vegetation, introducing the 10/30 rule for private property. Master Builders commends the government for this common-sense measure which will protect homes.

"Through the media, Master Builders has also worked to advise the community that homes should never be viewed as a safe refuge from the threat of bushfires.

"Similarly, bushfire bunkers should meet minimum regulatory requirements set by the State Government and should only ever be considered an absolute last line of defence.

"Master Builders believes residents should focus on the management of native vegetation fuel loads as a preventative measure and put in place plans to leave well before a bushfire arrives.

"There's along way to go, but Victorian builders are ready to assist where they can," he said.

For information on finding the right builder for bushfire reconstruction work in your area, visit [www.mbav.com.au](http://www.mbav.com.au) or call 9411-4555.

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