

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
ABN: 38 004 255 654

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Master Builders welcome VCAT President's Report

The Master Builders Association of Victoria has welcomed the release of the President's Review of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) and is pleased that three of the Association's key recommendations have been adopted.

Master Builders Executive Director, Brian Welch said the introduction of a 'major cases list' for disputed projects over \$5 million was a major win for property investors, builders and the community.

"For far too long, investors and builders have been forced to make their cases before Members with a limited understanding of the complexity of planning and construction matters," said Mr Welch.

"The creation of a 'major cases list' will ensure that decisions on major projects are made faster with future disputes heard by qualified Members with specific industry expertise. This reform alone will save the community thousands of dollars in legal costs and will ensure that disputes don't drag on endlessly," he said.

"Master Builders welcomes the call for increased funding for ongoing professional development for VCAT officials. It is essential that all VCAT Members involved in building and planning matters have a satisfactory industry knowledge base.

"This reform alone will improve the VCAT process substantially by directly tackling one of its key service delivery shortcomings.

"The creation of a new Deputy President dedicated to the 'civil claims list' is also a major win for builders. This reform will elevate the importance of this vexed legal area and will assist smaller builders in chasing-up outstanding payments from difficult clients."

"Overall, the VCAT President's Review has delivered some worthwhile reform to Victoria's civil justice system. Master Builders looks forward to the State Government's swift adoption of the Review's key recommendations.

The three key Master Builders recommendations adopted in the VCAT President's Review are:

- Recommendation 70 – Establishment of a 'Major Cases list';
- Recommendation 47 – Continuing professional development for non-lawyer judicial officers; and,
- Recommendation 30 – Funding for a deputy president to head the civil claims list.

To view Master Builders submission to the President's Review of VCAT, visit: www.mbav.com.au

ENDS

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

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

www.mbav.com.au