

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
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Budget Boosts Builders

Victoria's peak building industry body, the Master Builders Association, welcomes the State Government's Budget announcements to expand the Victorian First Home Bonus Scheme and cut Payroll Tax and WorkCover Premiums.

Master Builders Executive Director, Brian Welch, said today's boost will provide relief for Victorian families aspiring to new home ownership.

"The \$2,000 boost to the First Home Bonus and the Regional First Home Bonus will improve housing affordability across Victoria," said Mr Welch.

"For a median priced home in Melbourne, future mortgage payments will be reduced by \$8 per fortnight, \$210 per year and \$6,300 over the life of the average home loan.

"For a median priced home in Geelong, future mortgage payments will be reduced by \$16 per fortnight, \$420 per year and \$12,600 over the life of the average home loan.

"Master Builders welcomes the \$2,000 reduction in the First Home Bonus for established homes. Redirecting funding support to those purchasing new homes will stimulate housing supply and provide a positive flow-on effect for builders and their associated industries.

"The \$18.7 million investment in Central Activity Districts (CADs) and in-fill development programs will help ease planning delays by depoliticising planning decisions and fast tracking community investment.

"The \$193 million cut to Payroll tax, down to 4.9 per cent, will return 'bracket-creep' to builders seeking to expand their workforce.

"The \$28 million Land Tax Exemption during the construction phase of retirement villages will help bring forward much needed development and improve project viability.

"As previously announced, the \$5 million Building a Green Future fund will allow builders and tradies to improve their sustainability credentials through subsidised green skills training. Funding for this new initiative featured in Master Builders 2010-11 Pre-Budget Submission.

"Victorian builders will also benefit from the modest reduction in WorkCover Premiums by 3.5 per cent and continued investment in apprentice training.

"Master Builders welcomes the \$4 million expansion of the WaterWise program as it will deliver practical improvements in water consumption. Master Builders also called for increased funding for this valuable program in its Pre-Budget Submission.

"Master Builders continues to remain relaxed about Victoria's public debt position due to the retention of our AAA credit rating and our future budget outlook," Mr Welch said.

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