30/07/10

**Urban growth decision will allow for more affordable housing**

Master Builders welcomes the new passage of planning laws which will facilitate the expansion of Melbourne’s urban growth boundary.

Executive Director Brian Welch said the removal of clause 12 (high density provision) from the VC68 planning scheme amendment was a good compromise which will give hope to those seeking affordable housing in Melbourne’s suburbs.

“More land means more room for builders to create affordable communities for Victorian families to live, work and play,” said Mr Welch.

“However, it should be considered that this land will not be development ready for at least three years.’’

“In a recent Master Builders survey, 80 per cent of residential builders told us they feared land supply would not increase over the next three years, restricting housing supplies and impacting drastically on affordability.

“Another 20 per cent said that a shortage of land supply was the main strain on housing affordability.

“The affect of this decision will help ease their concerns and the concerns of many Victorian families who simply cannot afford to live in inner Melbourne.

“Victoria has an undersupply of 31,000 homes and we’re currently building 5,000 too few homes per year to meet that demand.

“As Melbourne’s population passes the four million mark, this decision gives hope to home owners who want to spread out in the country they love and have their own, affordable slice of the Great Australian Dream.”