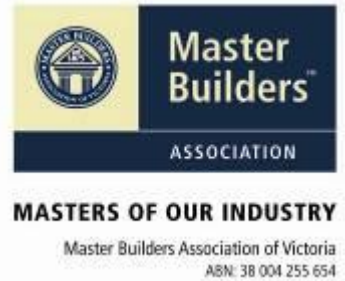


media release



25/08/10

Master Builders welcomes planning funding but say more needed

The Master Builders Association of Victoria has welcomed the launch of the State Government's 2010 Expert Assistance Program, which provides \$8.3 million in planning assistance for councils and developers.

Deputy Executive Director Radley de Silva said the funding would help councils in metropolitan Melbourne to prepare and update local planning strategies and to meet the challenges of the growing population.

"This funding will go some way towards providing planning certainty for those working in the building industry in Metropolitan Melbourne," said Mr de Silva.

"If councils have help doing the groundwork of identifying key strategic locations and updating planning policies in their municipalities, then the entire planning system will improve," he said.

"While this funding is a good start, there is still plenty more that needs to be done. Builders have to wait an average of 31 weeks for a planning permit in Metropolitan Melbourne.

"Providing greater certainty and clarity in the planning system is the first step towards improving relationships between the builders and councils."

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