

media release



Master
Builders
ASSOCIATION

MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
ABN: 38 004 255 654

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Master Builders welcomes Victoria's support of Industry Watchdog

The Master Builders Association of Victoria has welcomed the State Government's submission to a Senate committee inquiry into proposed reforms to building and construction workplace laws.

"The building and construction industry is a significant contributor to the Victorian economy and to Victorian jobs," said Executive Director Brian Welch.

"Our industry is facing an uncertain global economic climate so it is vital we take steps to improve our productivity and competitiveness."

The State Government today lodged its submission to a Senate committee inquiry into the *Building and Construction Industry Improvement Amendment (Transition to Fair Work) Bill 2011*. The Bill proposes to abolish the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) and introduce a new body with reduced powers.

"Master Builders agree with the Victorian Government that these proposed reforms will lead to an increase in unlawful behaviour and misconduct in our building and construction industry," said Mr Welch.

"Victorians rely on the ability of the 8000 builders, subcontractors, manufacturers and suppliers we represent to efficiently deliver their infrastructure and housing."

The ABCC was established after the findings of the Cole Royal Commission, and since it commenced operations the number of annual days lost in the construction industry has fallen by 81.8 per cent from 89,400 in 2005 to 16,300 in 2010.

"The ABCC has played a major role in reducing unlawful behaviour and industrial disputes across our sector," Mr Welch said.

"We welcome the improvements in the culture and performance of the building industry it has helped deliver and any moves to abolish or weaken its powers should be opposed."

"While we are thankful for the progress made under the ABCC's watch, its job is not yet done.

"Removing safeguards that deter illegal activities and deal with illegal actions quickly and effectively will threaten our industry's competitiveness, hurt Victorian consumers and place pressure on Victorian jobs."

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