




# Election Priorities Scorecard







## Party responses to key issues for industry

Building Minister					
Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
Building Minister	Will your government commit to creating a Building Minister to address the future challenges the industry faces?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Labor party has given no indication it will change the current structure of the building regulation and oversight in Victoria. The Labor government has established a building unit within the planning authority.</li><li>• The Liberal party supports a Building Ministry and appointed a Shadow Building Minister.</li><li>• The Greens do not support the creation of a Building Ministry.</li></ul>

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## Party responses to key issues for industry

Appropriately skilled and sized workforce					
Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
<b>Mandatory Trades Registration</b>	Will your government introduce mandatory trades registration in Victoria?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Labor Government has passed mandatory trades' registration legislation. Implementation is subject to a regulatory impact assessment (i.e. a cost benefit analysis).</li> <li>The Liberal party supports trades' registration but said that the legislation went too far and should have been subject to a cost-benefit analysis prior to enactment.</li> <li>The Greens support Labor's introduction of trade's registration.</li> </ul>
<b>Mandatory CPD program</b>	Will your government introduce mandatory CPD for registered practitioners in Victoria?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neither Labor nor the Liberals took a definitive position on mandatory CPD. However, indications are that CPD would be a consideration in any process to introduce trades' registration.</li> <li>The Greens stated they had supported a CPD programme for registered and licensed plumbers and indicating a willingness to consult with industry on the best way forward for CPD.</li> </ul>

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<b>A stakeholder driven consumer awareness campaign</b>	<b>Will your government fund a comprehensive public awareness campaign promoting careers in the industry?</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Labor party has given no indication that they will fund a comprehensive public awareness campaign promoting careers in the industry.</li> <li>The Liberal party has not provided an answer to this question.</li> <li>The Greens do not support having the government fund a comprehensive public awareness campaign for the industry.</li> </ul>

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Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
<b>Support industry RTOs</b>	<b>Will your government increase current funding for industry RTOs to provide equity with TAFEs?</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Labor party has made specific courses free at TAFEs, but will not fund RTOs.</li> <li>The Liberal party recognises RTOs provide training that “reduces the pressure on TAFE to deliver” the skills needed for the industry. The Liberal party states it is “vital to support both government and industry training options.”</li> <li>The Greens do not support funding industry RTOs and go further to say that VET “should be primarily provided through the public TAFE system”.</li> </ul>

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Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
<b>Focus on skills shortages specific to the sector</b>	<b>Will your government fund industry programmes for employers to take on apprentices?</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Labor party noted that that they have provided a \$6 million investment in the Skills Uplift pilot program designed to help meet the needs of employers in the industry.</li> <li>The Liberal party did not provide a definitive policy position on this question.</li> <li>The Greens provided no indication that they support funding industry programmes for employers to take on apprentices.</li> </ul>

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Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
<b>Focus on shortage of building surveyors and provision of insurance</b>	<b>Part1: Will your government take steps to address the shortage of building surveyors in our industry</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Labor party noted that they are aware of the demand for skilled building surveyors and the need to encourage more people in the industry and are currently working on this matter. They do not think that providing specialist government-backed insurance is the best approach at this point in time.</li> <li>The Liberal party indicated that they are aware that the current shortage of building surveyors is a real concern for the safety and integrity of the building industry. They noted that they will work with relevant stakeholders including Master Builders, to find solutions to this shortage. The Liberal party did not indicate whether they will support specialist government-backed insurance for building surveyors.</li> <li>The Greens support addressing the current shortage of building surveyors, however they noted that they will address this by providing more funding to TAFE. They did not indicate that they support providing specialist government-backed insurance for building surveyors.</li> </ul>
	<b>Part 2: Will your government provide specialist government-backed insurance for building surveyors?</b>				

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## Party responses to key issues for industry

Affordable and effective housing supply					
Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
<b>Centralised Planning scheme</b>	<b>Will your government set targets and sanctions or rewards to make Councils accountable for poor performance on planning and decision making?</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Labor party gave no indication it intends to make councils more accountable to government and states that the <i>Know Your Council</i> website has been part of making councils more accountable.</li> <li>The Liberal party has recognised that the planning system needs to be changed to address a “backlog of planning decisions that unnecessarily hold up development and drives up the cost of housing...”</li> <li>The Greens do not support increasing accountability for Councils, believing increased centralisation has eroded community voice.</li> </ul>

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Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
<b>Incentives</b>	<b>Will your government establish an incentive programme(s) in partnership with industry to encourage affordable housing options?</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Labor party has noted that they have introduced the Homes for Victorians package and have made recent announcements around how to best implement the Build-To-Rent concept to encourage the construction of affordable housing.</li> <li>The Liberal party has not provided any indication that they will establish a specific incentive programme(s) for affordable housing options.</li> <li>The Greens do not support providing incentives to industry to facilitate affordable housing options.</li> </ul>

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Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
<b>Increase as-of-right codified planning approvals</b>	<b>Does your government commit to introduce more as-of-right codification, including for secondary dwellings and small apartment blocks, in the planning scheme?</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Labor party reports that its Smart planning regime (which includes enhanced as of right provisions) has increased the proportion of applications eligible for 'fast track' from 10 to 23 percent.</li> <li>The Liberal party does not commit to increased as of right codification but does commit to fast tracking the completion of all metropolitan Precinct Structure Plans by 2020.</li> <li>The Greens agree more could be done to fast track some planning decisions and support a fast-track planning scheme that accelerates 'affordable, sustainable, deliberative housing developments.'</li> </ul>

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## Party responses to key issues for industry

Efficient and effective regulation					
Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
<b>VBA increases the number of its proactive building inspections</b>	Will your government set targets for the VBA to increase its inspections of buildings from current levels of less than 2% to our preferred target of 10%?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Labor party noted that the VBA is already committed to inspecting no less than 10 per cent of permits issued.</li> <li>The Liberal party provided no indication that they will set targets for the VBA to increase its inspections to 10 per cent.</li> <li>The Greens agrees with Master Builders that increased VBA inspections will help increase safety and quality in the industry. However, they do not stipulate whether they agree with the target being 10 per cent.</li> </ul>
<b>Greater education and information for industry and consumers</b>	Will your government fund a targeted industry awareness programme to support building practitioners dealing with comprehensive legislative change?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Liberal, Labor and Greens parties provided no indication that they will fund a targeted industry awareness programme if re-elected.</li> </ul>

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## Party responses to key issues for industry

Right Products					
Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
<b>Practical approach to non-conforming and non compliant products</b>	Does your government commit to improved industry partnership and consultation over non-conforming products, including involvement in advice and decision making?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All parties support commit to improved industry partnership and consultation.</li> </ul>
<b>Cladding</b>	Do you agree that the solution to the cladding issue (including costs) is a whole of industry approach, including government?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All parties support a whole of government response to the issue of cladding.</li> </ul>

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Infrastructure					
Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
Infrastructure spending	Will your government commit to ensuring that EBA wages and site allowances are managed in a commercially responsible way?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Labor party noted that it will ensure taxpayers' funds are spent responsibly in public infrastructure projects. They also state construction industry EBAs are a matter for employers and their workforce, although Master Builders considers government has a role to play in response to this issue.</li> <li>The Liberal party has not provided a definitive policy response on this issue.</li> <li>The Greens answer indicates that they will not commit to ensuring that EBA wages and site allowances are managed in a commercially responsible way.</li> </ul>

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Small Business					
Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
Continue cutting red tape	Does your government commit to a review of planning and building laws to ensure that overlap, duplication and inconsistencies are reduced?	✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Labor party has indicated that it has conducted comprehensive reviews of sector-based regulations as they impact small businesses, as seen in the Small Business Regulation Review into the construction sector. However, they did not indicate that they will specifically review planning and building laws.</li> <li>The Liberal party has indicated that the planning system requires adjustment to address the backlog of planning decisions that hold up development. However, they did not indicate that they will specifically review planning and building laws.</li> <li>The Greens indicated that they want to see a full review of the Planning and Environment Act. However, they did not indicate that they will specifically review planning and building laws.</li> </ul>

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Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
<b>Reduce payroll tax progressively and extend to larger businesses</b>	<b>Does your government commit to reducing payroll tax over time, including extending it to larger businesses?</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labor in government cut the regional payroll tax to 2.425 per cent which is half the metropolitan rate and the lowest rate in Australia. It has invested \$740m in tax cuts and “will continue to look for ways to ensure our tax system can support Victorian business.”</li> <li>• The Liberal party does not have a definitive policy on the payroll tax.</li> <li>• The Greens support reducing payroll tax and other inefficient and unproductive business taxes, and ensuring that large companies pay their fair share of tax.</li> </ul>

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Implementation of a Cross-Border Commissioner					
Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
<b>Appoint a Cross-Border Commissioner for Victoria</b>	Will you appoint a Cross-Border Commissioner to deal with interstate regulatory issues and create efficiencies for Victorian business?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All parties support the Cross Border Commissioner for Victoria.</li> </ul>

Safe Workplaces					
Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
<b>Require WorkSafe to enforce SWMS</b>	<p>Will you ensure that WorkSafe properly enforces the requirements for Safe Work Method Statements as per the OHS Regulations 2017?</p> <p>Will you require WorkSafe to work with industry to ensure greater uptake of the use of SWMS?</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Labor party states that it will work with Master Builders to address the effectiveness of SWMS. WorkSafe has sought legal advice on how to take a stronger enforcement position and has agreed to a \$360k funding proposal by Master Builders to train its members on SWMS in 2018/19.</li> <li>The Liberal party has agreed to a policy of supporting the application of SWMS and compliance and enforcement by WorkSafe</li> <li>The Greens stated they want WorkSafe to properly enforce the protections and statements that are in place for workers, including SWMS.</li> </ul>

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Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
<b>WorkSafe to proactively educate</b>	<b>Do you plan to increase funding for Worksafe education and prevention campaigns to assist with onsite building safety</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neither the Labor nor the Liberal party has a definitive policy on increasing funding for WorkSafe education and prevention campaigns.</li> <li>The Greens support increased funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Industrial manslaughter and wage theft legislation should not be introduced in the OHS Act</b>	<b>Do you agree with us that the introduction of industrial manslaughter and wage theft legislation is unnecessary because laws covering these issues already exist?</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Labor party plans to create a new criminal offence of industrial manslaughter</li> <li>The Liberal party is not pursuing an offence of industrial manslaughter. At a Master Builder's lunch on 25 October Leader Matthew Guy stated that the issue of industrial manslaughter is 'not on the agenda'.</li> <li>The Greens support the introduction of industrial manslaughter legislation.</li> </ul>

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Fair Workplaces					
Priority	Question	Liberal	Labor	Greens	Party Responses
<b>Arrangements for genuine independent contracting</b>	Does your government commit to protecting and preserving the State's independent contracting arrangements in the building industry?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Labor party has indicated it will not change the subcontracting system</li> <li>The Liberal party and the Greens did not provide a definitive policy statement on the issue</li> </ul>
<b>Security of payment</b>	Is your government considering introducing either PBA or STA models in its SOP legislation?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Labor party is not considering either of the models mentioned above or participating in any discussions that would further adoption of new models of payment.</li> <li>Neither the Liberal nor the Green party has a definitive policy on the SOP legislation, with the Greens stating a preference to focus is on consistency in legislation throughout states in territories.</li> </ul>

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