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Federal Budget will Boost Building

The Master Builders Association believes yesterday's Federal Budget will help stimulate the building and construction industry in Western Australia.

According to Master Builders Director Michael McLean the WA economy is currently operating on a different planet compared to the east coast and therefore requires different policy levers to get going again.

"As the state's third largest employer of labour, the building industry in WA needs an urgent stimulus to safeguard the future of many businesses and jobs," Mr McLean said.

"The Government's housing affordability package, including financial incentives to the state government to meet housing supply targets and the \$1billion to fund urban infrastructure to unlock more 'shovel ready' land for housing development will help cut the hidden taxes, red tape and regulatory creep that drive up house prices and help to provide an adequate supply of social housing," Mr McLean said.

"The investment in infrastructure, including urban, transport and defence will reap immediate as well as medium and long term benefits. But government procurement and tendering processes must be fair and transparent if we are to fully benefit from a strengthened economy and more jobs," Mr McLean said.

"Master Builders welcomes the announcement of the \$1.5 billion Skilling Australians Fund and the additional training of 300,000 apprentices in partnership with state and territory governments, as building industry apprentice numbers have fallen significantly over recent years in WA."

"As a capital intensive industry made up of 98% small businesses, the building industry is a big winner from the extension of the accelerated depreciation measures by one year and to businesses turning over up to \$10 million," Mr McLean said.

"In order to capitalize on these opportunities, the McGowan government would be well advised to get local government on board with more streamlined and consistent planning approvals processes," Mr McLean concluded.

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