

# Media Release



**MASTER BUILDERS**  
A U S T R A L I A

11 August 2017

## **PM Stance On Super-Union Would Be Positive Step For Building Industry, Economy And Community**

The media reports outlining the Turnbull Government's intention towards a proposed super-union would be a positive step for the building and construction industry, the economy and the community.

Representing 33,000 residential, commercial and civil building and construction businesses, Master Builders Australia holds serious concerns about the proposed amalgamation of the MUA, CFMEU & TCFU and the consequences for our members, the community and economy.

The building and construction industry suffers from more strikes and disputes than any other in Australia. The latest ABS data confirmed the sector bore the brunt of total days lost to disputes, around 40 percent of the entire national total.

Such unlawful behaviour is estimated to drive up the cost of constructing community infrastructure and facilities such as schools, hospitals and roads by as much as 30 percent. The cost is borne by taxpayers, the community and families.

This means more expensive schools and roads, or fewer hospitals and other much needed community infrastructure.

The industry employs one out of every ten Australian workers - more than one million people.

A recent national survey of Master Builders' commercial construction members showed an uptick in business confidence attributed to the restoration of the ABCC.

As the second largest sector in the Australian economy, containing more small businesses than any other industry, this confidence should not be undermined by allowing militant unions with a history of conduct described in one recent court decision as "*an embarrassment to the trade union movement.*"

Although Master Builders will be seeking more detail, the reported stance would be a positive step for the community, jobs, and the economy.

### **For further information contact:**

Ben Carter, Director Media & Public Affairs, 0447 775 507