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High Time for an Inclusive Training Levy

Master Builders urges the State Government to impose the same training levy that commercial and residential builders currently pay on the mining and resources construction sector.

Master Builders Director Michael McLean welcomed reports that Education and Training Minister Sue Ellery is actively considering extending the levy to the mining and resources construction sector, which has previously been exempt from paying it.

“This is something that we have been advocating for years. We were heartened when Labor indicated it would look at removing the exemption for mining companies in 2017 and the change can’t come fast enough,” Mr McLean said.

“The building and construction industry has been unfairly burdened with the responsibility for paying the levy for training and skills development for workers engaged in the mining and resources sector. When you consider that many of the apprentices and trainees that our industry trains end up working in the mining and resources sectors, it only makes sense that the people who employ them should contribute to their skillsets.”

Mr McLean said expanding the levy to the mining and resources construction sector in its current form was the ideal model, however, any compromise to accommodate the mining and resources sector would be a better arrangement than what currently exists.

“The additional money that will be set aside for the Construction Training Fund to utilise each year will provide more opportunities to offer more apprenticeships and ensure Western Australia has a highly skilled workforce well into the future,” Mr McLean said.

“The building and construction industry is currently rebounding and needs all the support it can get to continue to create career paths for future generations of West Australians.”

Master Builders was also pleased that the National Party and the McGowan Government were on the same page in extending the 0.2% training levy across the board.

“We now call on all the parties to support this worthwhile initiative,” Mr McLean said.

“Extending the training levy to the mining and resources sector needs to be a bi-partisan, supported policy to enable an expeditious progression through Parliament.”

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