

# Media Release

## Builders welcome housing plan but support needed now

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The McGowan Government's commitment to greater infill development and housing around transport corridors and Metronet precincts has been praised by the Master Builders Association of WA for providing clarity on the intended direction of housing across the state.

While these were important medium to long term plans, Master Builders Executive Director John Gelavis said the construction industry also needed more immediate help.

"Due to the severe market downturn, housing requires support in the short term to maintain the capacity which will allow us to deliver these plans in the future," he said.

**Our Priorities: Sharing Prosperity** was announced today as a government plan to deliver jobs and widespread benefits to the community. Under the theme "*a liveable environment*" is the pledge to build Metronet and increase homes near public transport by 2031. The number of homes in the Perth and Peel region close to a public transport node will increase by 45 per cent over 2018 numbers.

"The government must be commended for its focus on housing with the Affordable Housing Action Plan, a \$420 million expansion to the Keystart loan book and good first home buyer concessions," Mr Gelavis said.

"The immediate challenge is a housing market that continues to struggle, with conditions being some of the worst ever experienced and housing starts expected to dip below 18,000 in 2019-20. The residential housing market is hurting, which is putting many small businesses at risk, along with their staff, suppliers, sub-contractors and apprentices.

"Builders in regional areas are also suffering, so we are pleased to note that 30,000 of the 150,000 future jobs which are expected to be created under the plan will be in regional WA.

"Master Builders has called on the government to consider reintroducing the First Home Owner Boost payment of \$5,000 for a maximum of 12 months, expansion of Keystart income limits and lifting the stamp duty exemption threshold for first home buyers in this year's state budget. This will provide a much-needed adrenaline shot to assist the residential building sector, one of the largest and most important to the state economy."

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