

Media Release

Hit the go button on WA infrastructure

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Master Builders WA is urging the State Government to revive the economy by accelerating infrastructure work.

New Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show the volume of civil/engineering construction work in Western Australia fell during the March 2019 quarter by 19.5 per cent and 24.9 per cent on a year earlier. Total building and construction activity was down 19.3 per cent compared with the first quarter of 2018.

“With the state economy struggling to recover, Master Builders wants to see government-led infrastructure work speeded up to visibly increase activity in the construction sector and deliver much-needed jobs and economic growth,” Executive Director John Gelavis said.

“Master Builders congratulates the State Government for its advocacy on the GST, setting up Infrastructure WA and commitment to major projects such as Metronet. We now expect greater urgency in getting projects moving and giving the local economy a shove in the right direction.

“Infrastructure work gives a great bang for its buck. As well as providing visible, confidence-boosting work in the immediate term, it also expands capacity and flexibility in the building industry.

“Unlike other forms of expenditure, the bulk of the money spent on infrastructure is retained and recycled within the WA economy and assists recovery.

“We welcome State Government announcements of metropolitan and regional infrastructure investment in the budget as well as improvements to hospitals and high schools.

“These projects in conjunction with civil and engineering infrastructure will make a big difference to economic confidence and prosperity in WA. A strong building industry means a strong economy.

“Our industry is one of the largest providers of full-time jobs in the state, employing around 119,000 people. The WA building and construction sector encompasses more than 40,000 small businesses and is responsible for around 10 per cent of full-time employment.

“Local businesses such as builders, subbies, suppliers and manufacturers need work and they need it fast.

“Let’s hit the go button on these projects and raise confidence, jobs and apprenticeships across the state.”

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