

Media Release

Builders welcome stamp duty breaks

October 23, 2019

The stamp duty relief for new apartment buyers announced by the WA Government today has been welcomed by the Master Builders Association of Western Australia.

Executive Director John Gelavis said the tax break would remove a major obstacle for buyers and promote multi-storey apartment construction.

“This is a smart move to relieve the ongoing difficulties in the state’s building industry,” Mr Gelavis said.

“Residential construction is at an alarmingly low level in Western Australia and the predictions aren’t improving.

“The number of new dwellings built each year has been dropping for some time and went down to just 15,608 for the 2018-19 financial year. Next year, Master Builders predicts the number to fall even lower to 14,566.

“The WA Government’s new stamp duty rebates will help to revive residential construction, which means more jobs for local tradies, opportunities for apprentices and trainees and a boost for the wider economy.

“Building and construction is the second largest employer in WA providing 9.5 per cent or 129,235 full time jobs (as at June 2019). Our industry was responsible for \$24.3 billion worth of construction to June this year. The value of commercial work done was \$9.43 billion to June and \$5.87 billion in residential work has been done over the past year.

“But overall construction employment has been down by about 11.6 per cent (at November 2018). The numbers reflect the tough times the industry is going through and the vital role it plays in a strong state economy.

“Stamp duty has been a big cost for people buying off-the-plan apartments until now, which was a drag on multi-storey apartment construction and therefore on infill development in WA.

“The tax break is a pick-me-up for both residential builders and the plan to add vibrancy to suburbs close to public transport.

“Support for the building industry means support for the WA economy. We’re the second biggest employer in the state and we have the most apprentices so we’re in a position to make a big difference to WA’s prosperity,” Mr Gelavis concluded.

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