

# Media Release

## Drop the debt and raise housing construction

October 21, 2019

The call for the Federal Government to forgive old loans for social housing and release money for new construction in WA has the full support of the Master Builders Association of Western Australia.

Housing Director Jason Robertson says WA Treasurer Ben Wyatt's proposal to drop the debt and lift spending on social housing projects has the potential to kick start the economy.

"This is a smart move to relieve the ongoing misery in the state's building industry," Mr Robertson says.

"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.

"If the WA Government can release cash for a lift in social housing construction it will mean more jobs for local tradies, opportunities for apprentices and trainees and a boost for the wider economy.

"The building industry is 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.

"This plan will also help to reduce the waiting list for public housing and address the important issue of homelessness.

"The Federal Government has made deals with Tasmania and South Australia to wipe out loans so we hope the same can happen here."

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