

# Media Release

## Local councils ease the strain on builders

March 31, 2020

Master Builders is calling for local councils across Western Australia to match the City of Stirling's efforts to ease the pressure on businesses during the COVID-19 crisis.

"Stirling has introduced several measures to assist businesses, the building industry and ultimately their residents during this unprecedented situation," said Master Builders housing director Jason Robertson.

"This includes releasing \$1000 from existing verge bonds held by the council to allow more cash flow. The council will also waive verge permit fees and reduce new verge bonds by up to \$1000 for new verge permits for six months.

"Businesses need all the help they can get and these initiatives are a welcome relief.

"Small and medium businesses make up more than 97 per cent of the building industry, which employs a significant chunk of the West Australian workforce.

"All councils, both metropolitan and regional, should follow up with similar measures as soon as possible. This should include waiving building and planning application fees across the board.

"Ultimately, it's all about assisting as many people as possible. Measures such as these can help keep businesses afloat, people get into their homes and a major economic driver to continue during this global crisis." Mr Robertson concluded.

**For more information please contact: John Gelavis, Director – w: 9476 9800 m: 0428 884 392**