

Media Release

Planning reform to release builders from red tape

May 20, 2020

A simplified planning system will protect jobs and create opportunities as WA recovers from COVID-19 and beyond says Master Builders Executive Director John Gelavis.

“Master Builders has spent years promoting a clear, strong and functional planning system so we welcome the reforms put to Parliament today,” Mr Gelavis said.

“Cutting red tape, streamlining the planning process and ensuring consistency are vital for getting our state on the road to recovery and beyond.

“The changes will allow urgent decision making where necessary, making it easier for businesses to operate in tough conditions now, while also creating the foundations for engaged communities and smart future growth.

“Master Builders has been explaining how cranking up construction activity on infrastructure projects can improve WA’s economic health. Setting up a new development application process for job-creating projects over the next 18 months will help push things along faster.

“The reforms include welcome exemptions for some residential developments and accountabilities for the decision makers over unnecessary delays.

“For too long builders and property owners have been frustrated by lengthy delays for simple residential and commercial projects.

“Master Builders has been calling for appropriate time frames for assessing and approving development projects, including homes. We need a mechanism for projects to go ahead if set time frames are not met and these reforms have answered the call.

“The \$24billion building and construction sector employs 120,000 workers and many small businesses. It needs an efficient and effective planning system to allow projects to flow.

“We support the WA Planning Reform Action Plan, which can help immensely in minimising disruption in this difficult environment.

“As the COVID-19 health emergency gives way to an economic emergency, now is the time to act and these reforms will enable major projects to be fast tracked, creating many jobs.

“We commend the WA Government for putting economic recovery first and coming up with a plan for a brighter future,” concluded Mr Gelavis

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