

# Media Release

## WA Builders applaud Federal HomeBuilder Scheme

June 3, 2020

The Morrison Government HomeBuilder scheme is a lifeline and brings much-needed relief to the Western Australian housing industry and the many small to medium businesses within it.

Master Builders WA executive director John Gelavis said the scheme followed a three-month advocacy campaign to save jobs and recharge building activity by the Master Builders movement.

“This is a great news by the Federal Government announcing a scheme like HomeBuilder, which provides a grant of \$25,000 to build a new home or substantially renovate an existing home.

“The Government has listened to Master Builders call for HomeBuilder to include grants for both new home builds and renovations. EY modelling commissioned by Master Builders shows that this stimulus mix will deliver the best return on investment for taxpayers,

“The eligibility criteria mean that the vast majority of Australians will be able to access the scheme. More than 80 per cent of households have income of \$200,000 or less.

“The scheme is structured to get building activity going immediately and to provide safeguards around quality and consumer protection. Making HomeBuilder grants accessible through state and territory channels should streamline its rollout and building work must be carried out by a registered or licensed builder.

“Renovations or building work must be undertaken by a registered or licenced building service 'contractor' and named as a builder on the building licence or permit. They must have held the building licence or endorsed contractor licence before the date of announcement.

“Master Builders WA has been working closely with the WA State Government on additional housing stimulus in WA as well and we look forward to receiving details of the finalised package, which we understand will be released shortly.

“A survey of MBA WA members in April indicated more than 70 per cent of our members reported a 40 per cent decline in their pipeline of work. This was extremely worrying because, adding on the three-to-four-month construction time, it became clear the industry was set to fall off a cliff around August.

“Our industry in WA is too critical to the state economy to allow to fail, and HomeBuilder will help many small businesses such as mum and dad builders, large builders, subbies, manufacturers, suppliers and apprentices and will keep thousands of people in work and thousands of West Australian families financially secure.



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