

Media Release

Builders back best on ground State Budget

October 8, 2020

Following the Federal Budget where the building and construction industry was front and centre, the State Budget followed suit backing the \$24b WA building and construction sector by investing heavily in the construction of transport infrastructure, healthcare, education, housing, social housing, community facilities and maintenance work, which will create jobs and economic activity.

“The massive \$27.1b Asset Investment Program, which includes \$7.5b for Regional WA over the next 4 years, comprises of hundreds of projects across the state, and generate economic activity and create jobs across many areas of the construction sector, said John Gelavis Master Builders Executive Director.

“Investment in Perth through Metronet and the Perth City Deal will deliver new construction work though the university campus development in the Perth CBD, WACA redevelopment, East Perth Power Station, Perth Concert Hall and housing and homeless initiatives.

“Investment in Regional WA, through the Royalties for Regions program of \$4.2b over four years includes construction of major transport infrastructure and also includes projects such as the transformation of the Bunbury Waterfront, Port Hedland Spoilbank Marina and short stay accommodation in Derby, Broome and Kalgoorlie for aboriginal people accessing health and other government services.

“Putting building and construction at the center of the State Budget recovery makes perfect sense, as every \$1 spent generates \$3 as construction is recovery’s accelerator.

“In our State Action Plan - Rebuilding Western Australia, provided to the Government in March, Master Builders put forward numerous recommendations in housing, commercial and civil construction, which has been implemented by the Government with great effect and today’s infrastructure investment in the state budget will build a greater pipeline of work and be a lifesaver for jobs in the WA economy.

“When it comes to infrastructure, we have a need for speed. Immediate construction must be the focus because without it there is no stimulus, there are no jobs, so we welcome the newly created Infrastructure Delivery Unit in Treasury to enable the fasttracking of these critical projects.

“We welcome the acknowledgment by the Treasurer of the highly successful Builder Bonus program promoted by Master Builders in March, however we need the mechanism for this important program amended to allow for these new infrastructure projects to work in concert and ensure all projects are delivered on time, in full and safely”. concluded Mr Gelavis

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