

## New local jobs plan and pipeline to rebuild WA

November 19, 2020

Government projects are among the biggest and most important for the building industry so Master Builders welcomes Premier Mark McGowan's announcement today of the 2020 WA Industry Participation Strategy and jobs pipeline.

At a major event in Perth attended by around 1000 people and facilitated by Master Builders Executive Director John Gelavis, the Premier outlined a pipeline of work for the \$24billion building and construction industry to create local jobs for builders, subbies, suppliers and apprentices.

"The biggest client for the WA building industry is the WA Government so we want local schools, hospitals, roads and railways to be built by local businesses across the state," Mr Gelavis said.

"The central goal of the new WA Industry Participation Strategy is to maximise opportunities for local businesses to supply to the Government, which is critically important to WA recovery.

"Master Builders wrote to the Premier on March 19 calling for a COVID-19 Building and Construction Industry Stimulus Package and Recovery Plan including a clearly identified pipeline of future work to support local jobs and this new strategy fits in perfectly.

"The jobs pipeline initiative will ensure clarity about projects ahead and how the industry can get involved in this work and support all West Australians. It is imperative that these initiatives succeed if the state is to successfully emerge from the impacts of COVID-19."

The PCEC event included presentations by the heads of major government departments including Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, Finance, Training and Workforce Development, Transport and Communities outlining how the industry can secure local work.

"The WA Government has launched unprecedented stimulus for the residential, commercial and civil sectors including a \$5.5billion Recovery Package, \$174million Builder Bonus, \$318million Social Housing Economic Recovery Package, \$200million School Maintenance Blitz, including a \$35million School Infrastructure Package, \$27.1billion Infrastructure spend and \$1.5billion Perth City Deal. All these will create jobs and a multiplier effect across the whole state economy," Mr Gelavis said.

"It is critical that the State and Federal Governments increase investment in capital works and social infrastructure projects to boost commercial building activity at a time when private investment has sunk dramatically. Key social infrastructure sectors that need attention are social housing, health and aged care, education, justice and emergency services and recreation services.

"We welcome the move to support local businesses in tendering to deliver government projects."

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