

Media Release

Builders reveal blueprint for economic recovery

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Master Builders WA has released a five-point policy wish list ahead of the state election to help Western Australia build its way to economic growth.

Executive director John Gelavis said state and federal grants had set the building industry up to be a driving force in COVID-19 recovery but the sector depended on the next state government to minimise obstacles to success.

“The government chosen to lead WA for the next four years needs policies that will support the industry in creating an economic multiplier effect that will benefit the entire community,” he said.

“A strong building industry means a strong economy. It creates jobs, trains people, drives wider economic growth and builds better communities.”

The policy blueprint was released at the Master Builders WA economic lunch, attended by Treasurer Ben Wyatt and Shadow Treasurer Sean L’Estrange on February 15. The five election priorities are:

1. Building safe and productive workplaces
2. Economic settings for stability and growth
3. Infrastructure and investment
4. Jobs and skills for the future
5. More small business and less red tape.

“We’re asking for cuts to bureaucratic red tape and environmental green tape, measures to boost confidence in the industry and a consistent pipeline of work,” Mr Gelavis said.

“There are 40,176 small businesses in the building and construction sector, more than any other industry. They are responsible for more than half the industry’s output and almost one third of jobs but they are held back by heavy taxes, over-regulation and excessive compliance burdens which add to the cost of homes and infrastructure.

“The building and construction industry is also the state’s second largest employer with 120,000 people or nine per cent of the WA workforce and more than 40 per cent of apprentices.

“Training the next generation, upskilling industry participants and increasing diversity are essential to achieving the highest standards of building quality and innovation.

“We look forward to a positive partnership with the next state government as we take on the challenge of rebuilding Western Australia.”

More information is in our State Electorate Analysis and Advocacy Platform at mbawa.com/2021-state-election or contact: John Gelavis, Director – w: 9476 9800 m: 0428 884 392

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