

Media Release

Builders' welcomes planning reforms by State Government

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Master Builders Association of Western Australia welcomes the State Government's announcement today, releasing new planning policy for medium density developments. This will be the first ever planning policy to guide medium density development across the state.

Master Builders WA also welcomes the recent announcement regarding planning reforms, which has been a strong aspect of our advocacy over many years, and we congratulate the State Government for its consultation process and responding to industry concerns.

Master Builders WA strongly supports reforms to significantly improve and streamline the planning framework in WA. The proposed reforms represent significant changes to WA's planning system and follow Master Builders WA's calls for planning reform over a lengthy period. Planning reform is necessary to see healthy property and construction industries now and into the future.

Master Builders WA Executive Director, John Gelavis says it is clear WA needs a clear, strong and functional planning system that streamlines the planning process and ensures consistency in approach and appropriate timeframes for assessing and approving development projects across the commercial and residential sectors.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has brought this need to the forefront as we simply cannot afford the delays, inconsistencies, unnecessary red tape and lack of accountability that has too often inhibited development in the past. We are pleased to see announcements that recognise the significant issues with, and the substantial impact of, planning issues and delays which stop projects getting off the ground.

"We must also address delays in development approvals for single dwellings, where the issues experienced by industry are significant and have a detrimental impact broadly. Master Builders supports further changes to address residential issues in the next tranche of reforms.

"Master Builders WA has long held the view that the introduction of registration and accreditation for town planners, and private certification for the town planning profession, are necessary steps to address existing cultural and accountability issues that can arise with respect to local government planners. Combined with a fast-track mechanism for single dwellings (reducing the existing timeframes), we consider that these reforms would get to the heart of the problems experienced by the sector", Mr Gelavis says.

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