

Media Release

Building Industry Roundtable shows action needed now

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Master Builders Western Australia welcomes the WA State Government's initiative in organising an industry roundtable today to discuss the ongoing fuel crisis and its impact on the building and construction industry.

"The roundtable today was critical, as it allows government to hear in real time about the emerging and ongoing effects of the fuel shortage on the industry," said MBAWA CEO Matt Moran.

"The State Government's call for an emergency roundtable demonstrates they understand the importance of the building and construction industry to the WA economy, and how a strong industry benefits all Western Australians."

"Our priority is working with the WA State Government to find pragmatic solutions to the myriad of challenges this fuel crisis is creating; all of which are a result of factors outside the industry's control," Mr Moran said.

With the industry experiencing sudden price spikes, rapid cost escalations and emerging shortages of key materials due to global supply chain disruptions, Mr Moran said the government needed to know what a drawn-out resolution to the crisis could mean for the industry and the state going forward.

"Evidence from MBAWA members shows the industry is already experiencing immediate cost increases for key products and materials," said Mr Moran.

"For example, PVC products, bitumen and aluminium are already up. This is on top of freight costs, which have also increased sharply."

"This a direct result of the volatile fuel prices and subsequent fuel shortages caused by the Iran War."

Mr Moran said the State Government must classify the building and construction industry as an essential service, should fuel shortages continue to escalate.

"Any pause on construction activity would have severe economic consequences. Additionally, builders cannot be expected to absorb the sudden and large-scale cost increases being felt. It's simply not feasible," said Mr Moran.

“While builders and head contractors are expected to lock in fixed prices for their clients, other parties in the supply chain can raise prices with almost immediate effect. At the end of the day, it’s the builder footing the difference and paying the price,” Mr Moran continued.

“Action is needed, and it’s needed now. We commend the State Government on their actions to date, but our focus now has to be on implementing tangible solutions – and quickly – so we can best support the industry and the people of WA.”

Who we are

Master Builders WA services the needs of the entire building and construction industry, from residential to commercial, civil engineering businesses, principal contractors to subcontractors, manufacturers and suppliers. We assist members by providing access to a wide range of specialised services, recognition through awards, as well as advocacy to government and industry. MBAWA also serves the Western Australian public by fostering best practice work standards.

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