

MEDIA RELEASE

Government unlocks the budget, housing the key

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The State Government promised housing would be a priority for the State Budget – and it has put billions into helping people into homes.

Master Builders Western Australia CEO Matt Moran said today's announcements show the government recognises housing is a key issue facing our community, and it has listened to MBAWA's calls to focus on housing supply.

"WA is the nation's economic powerhouse and it's critical taxpayers' money is used wisely to increase the supply of homes and support the building and construction industry so it can deliver," said Mr Moran.

Mr Moran said he was pleased \$4.7 billion has been allocated towards housing supply and affordability.

MBAWA's number one ask was to focus on increasing the size of the building and construction workforce because without the workers, nothing will be delivered.

Mr Moran said the \$156.7 million investment to build WA's workforce will lay the foundations for future economic success.

"Western Australia is experiencing both a critical skills shortage and a housing supply shortage."

"The state won't be able to build enough homes to fix the housing crisis without growing the building and construction workforce."

"The government answered MBAWA's call by announcing \$19.6 million for an additional 330 Group Training Organisation wage subsidy places. We urge the government to put more investment into this critical initiative in the future."

MBAWA also welcomes the \$13.1 million invested to extend the Construction Visa Subsidy Program and the Build a Life in WA incentive, and further fee-free TAFE places for construction courses.

"We repeatedly called for supply solutions, not demand incentives. We need to attract more workers to the industry and more land unlocked."

"In the lead up to the budget, MBAWA specifically asked for further investment in the Housing Enabling Infrastructure Fund (HEIF) and Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF), and we are pleased the government has delivered."

The \$522 million earmarked for the HEIF, alongside \$694 million for land development works at METRONET station precincts, will unlock more shovel-ready land and allow the industry to build the homes Western Australians need.

\$297 million has been committed to help first homebuyers with stamp duty relief and encourage seniors to downsize by extending the off-the-plan transfer duty concession.

First homebuyers will also benefit with \$375 million allocated to build 500 affordable homes, including shared equity opportunities.

Education infrastructure also received \$1.7 billion to open new schools, upgrade infrastructure and expand capacity. \$1.5 billion in additional funding was committed to build, upgrade and maintain health infrastructure.

“Housing and infrastructure investment were clear winners in this budget, but the key is delivery with a strong pipeline of work ahead of us.”

“The real work starts now to build the workforce and supply chain we need to help our community thrive.”

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