

# media release



**MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY**

Master Builders Association of Victoria  
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## **East West Link to drive thousands of construction jobs for the next decade**

Today's announcement by the Federal Government to provide \$1.5 billion for the next stage of the East West Link will secure jobs and investment in Victoria's construction industry for the next 10 years.

Welcoming the funding commitment, Master Builders CEO Radley de Silva said the city-shaping project would provide massive benefits to Victorians as well as stimulating the construction sector.

"Today's announcement is a big win for our sector. It will secure 3000 jobs during construction of the Western Section on top of the 3200 jobs being already being created to build the Eastern Section," Mr de Silva said.

"Our industry is excited about the prospects of delivering another game-changing project for Melbourne that will provide long-term benefits for our community.

"Congestion chaos caused every time there is an incident or lane closure on the Monash Freeway or West Gate Bridge demonstrates how much our community needs this project to reduce our over-reliance on the M1 corridor.

"East West Link's Western Section is a critical missing link in our transport network and it will improve ever growing cross-city travel trips, including those undertaken by the builders and tradespeople constructing homes, workplaces, shops, schools and hospitals right across the city."

Population forecasts by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that Melbourne will be home to some 600,000 more people by around 2020 and 1.6 million more by around 2030. Master Builders has previously called for the infrastructure projects required to meet the needs of this population growth.

In addition to the East West Link, the State Government has progressed plans to upgrade the CityLink-Tullamarine corridor, the Melbourne Metro Rail Capacity project and to deliver the Regional Rail Link, providing a new rail line to the airport and removing numerous level crossings.

"It is vital we build the infrastructure our growing city needs to preserve our liveability, generate new economic opportunities and help Melburnians spend less time stuck in gridlock," said Mr de Silva.

"Victoria is embarking on a capital works program that will deliver Melbourne a world-leading, multi-modal transport network that will be the envy of the country."

Construction on the Eastern Section of East West Link (between the Eastern Freeway/Hoddle Street interchange and CityLink-Tullamarine Freeway) is expected to commence in late 2014 and finish in 2019. Works on the Western Section (between CityLink and the Western Ring Road) are due to start in 2015, with the connection opening to traffic in 2023.

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