

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
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19/5/14

Building industry responds to Melbourne's new planning strategy

Master Builders has welcomed the release of the State Government's *Plan Melbourne* strategy, which will help deliver nearly 1.57 million new homes across the city up to 2051.

"Housing affordability is a massive issue for our community and the final planning strategy better serves our growing population without unduly driving long-term home prices up," said Chief Executive Officer Radley de Silva.

"Master Builders called for the government to provide for more homes than it originally planned and it's great to see that adopted into this policy.

"Now we need to make sure councils provide sufficient opportunities for building more homes and that regional growth targets are enforced.

"Councils that fail to deliver on growth targets should be sent back to the drawing board and we endorse moves by the Planning Minister to send some councils' plans to an advisory committee."

Plan Melbourne also provides a way forward for a range of urban renewal projects and major infrastructure projects.

"Melburnians are being asked to embrace population growth and it's important this strategy helps deliver the infrastructure services they need now and in the years to come," said Mr de Silva.

"This strategy will help deliver vital major projects, such as East West Link and Melbourne Rail Link, to ensure our city has a world-class multi-modal transport network.

"It will also help unlock the substantial potential in our next communities surrounding the central city, such as Fishermans Bend, E-Gate in West Melbourne and the Arden-Macaulay precinct around North Melbourne.

"Importantly, it will also help rejuvenate existing communities around underutilised rail corridors such as North Richmond to Victoria Park, between Brunswick and Batman station and along parts of the Oakleigh to Dandenong rail corridor."

Victoria's planning system remains a significant issue for many building and construction companies and simplifying it is a major priority.

"Complying with our overly-complex land use planning costs up to \$875 million per annum, which is driving up the cost of new homes, schools and workplaces across our suburbs," Mr de Silva said.

"The new Metropolitan Planning Authority has been tasked with identifying opportunities to streamline and reform planning approvals and our industry needs this work to be done urgently."

The Metropolitan Planning Authority's work is being funded by a new levy being imposed on the construction sector for projects valued over \$1 million.

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