

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
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New construction code helps tackle issues confronting our industry

The State Government's new construction code will provide more clarity for Victoria's building and construction industry while helping address serious issues like secondary boycotts.

"We welcome the Victorian Government's move to streamline its construction code and provide greater consistency with the proposed federal building code," said Master Builders Chief Executive, Radley de Silva.

"Merging the current code and the separate, complex implementation guidelines will provide more certainty for construction companies who want to deliver taxpayer-funded projects.

"We are glad to see the new code tackles serious issues like secondary boycotts as well as unions abusing their rights of entry onto construction sites.

"The Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance has highlighted the serious impacts secondary boycotts can have on affected companies like Boral and we are pleased to see the government act to address this.

"Acting to end the misuse of right of entry laws, which are too often used to advance building unions' industrial agendas rather than for legitimate worker health and safety causes, is something we also strongly support.

Today's announcement follows requests by Master Builders for the government's assistance in tackling issues confronting Victorian building and construction companies.

"This announcement shows the Victorian Government is serious about weeding out practices that add to the costs and timelines of major infrastructure projects in this state," said Mr de Silva.

"The government has again stepped up to the plate for our sector after already mandating onsite drug and alcohol testing, beefing up site security measures and providing police with greater powers to challenge unlawful picketing.

"With an election just around the corner, Master Builders calls on all political parties to get behind these reforms and stand up for a strong, healthy construction sector."

Victoria's new code applies to all taxpayer-funded projects, site practices and agreements from 8 October 2014.

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