

MEDIA RELEASE

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BUSINESS SURVIVAL PACKAGE HELPS PROTECT INDUSTRY VITAL TO VICTORIA'S ECONOMIC HEALTH IN FACE OF PANDEMIC

Master Builders Victoria welcomes today's announcement by the Victorian State Government on its economic survival and jobs package to help Victorian businesses survive the devastating impact of COVID-19.

"It is good to see that the Victorian State Government's actions have been developed following discussions at National Cabinet and complements the work of the Federal Government," Rebecca Casson, CEO of Master Builders Victoria said. "During these challenging times, active co-operation is critical to ensure the protection of businesses and workers."

"Payroll tax rebates will provide vital support for small and medium-sized building and construction businesses and keep more Victorians employed as businesses navigate these unprecedented times," Ms Casson said.

"We also welcome the State Government's confirmation that it will pay all outstanding supplier invoices within five business days – releasing up to \$750 million into the economy earlier. We also encourage the private sector to do the same where possible," she said.

The building and construction industry contributes to over 45% of Victoria's tax revenue. It is therefore a matter of economic survival that decisions made in relation to building and construction sites are made with a rigorous understanding of the environment in which people work, and that the controls currently in place are being implemented.

"We are committed to not only protecting community health, but also limiting the broader community impact if the industry is brought to a standstill," Ms Casson said. "Therefore, special consideration must be given to the building and construction industry in regard to blanket COVID-19 closures."

ENDS:

MASTER BUILDERS VICTORIA

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Since 1875, Master Builders Victoria has grown to be Victoria's leading building and construction industry voice.

A broad-based organisation, we service the needs of the entire industry, from residential to commercial and engineering businesses, principal contractors to subcontractors, manufacturers and suppliers.

We continually assist in developing the skills of our members by providing access to a wide range of services and proactive representation to government and industry. Master Builders Victoria also serves the community by fostering best practice work standards and acting as an independent advisory service for our industry.

AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT:

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