

### **South Australian building sector welcomes Plaza activation and jobs**

The activation of major works for Festival Plaza should trigger a range of projects to develop a much-needed pipeline for South Australia's building and construction industry.

Master Builders SA Chief Executive Officer Ian Markos welcomed the news.

"Our concerns have always been around the lack of activity following the end of substantial work on the New Royal Adelaide Hospital. With more than 2000 jobs on that site, the transition has a serious impact on every business – from the head contractor, all the way through to the mum-and-dad businesses," he said.

"Activity on Festival Plaza should trigger more activity along that stretch, which in turn should create more confidence in Adelaide and its future.

"It is a perfect time to implement necessary reforms to strengthen the industry, and we urge the Government to work with Master Builders SA to take up that opportunity immediately, but we certainly hope that today's announcement will mark a corner in industry activity.

"These are the jobs the State needs."

Data released yesterday by the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed non-residential construction for the past year dropped 12.5 per cent to \$2 billion compared to the prior year. The calling of tenders for the Festival Plaza will not return the sector to its prior level of activity but will provide support for future activity.

**Ends**

#### **For further information**

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#### **Available for interviews**

Ian Markos, Chief Executive Officer