

Much-needed planning investment can unlock jobs and economic growth

The State Government's commitment to funding the next generation of planning reform is to be welcomed as a commitment to unlocking jobs and economic growth, Master Builders SA says.

Chief Executive Officer Ian Markos said South Australia's economic future needed such a long-term investment in its building and construction sector.

"We called for a Budget that supported South Australian jobs, build a job-creation environment and a built a stronger economic future, and investing in a new planning system meets every one of those goals," he said.

"This is a once-in-generation reform of the platform that underpins the homes families invest in and the offices and warehouses that house the businesses that employ South Australians.

"We need to get the system right so there is a bias to say 'yes' rather than an excuse to say 'no'. Planning reforms passed this year were a start – but this is the investment that the sector needs to see to believe there is a serious commitment across Government to deliver a real difference.

"South Australia boasts the highest unemployment rate across the country and building approvals are sliding quicker than any other State. So while we wait for the certainty of a Federal Election result, this shows the State Government wants to invest in making investment easier for others.

"There is a huge path we still need to take to reform planning in this State, and Master Builders SA is delighted to work with Deputy Premier John Rau to get the best outcome to unlock growth, but there is no doubt that investment in a functional Planning Commission and the structure for an e-Planning system are essential to create jobs in South Australia's building and construction sector.

"This was one of essential elements of our Budget Submission, along with opening up stamp duty concessions across Adelaide and a continuation of the Small Business Payroll Tax Concession. All of them focus on giving businesses the right environment to invest in themselves and the jobs they create. We would have liked to have a greater investment in social and productive infrastructure, but these measures alone show Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis is taking essential steps in the right direction to support South Australia's building and construction sector."

Master Builders SA will hold its State Budget Breakfast at **Crowne Plaza at 16 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide**, from 7.30am with **media interviews at 9.10am**. South Australian Centre for Economics Associate Professor Michael O'Neil will answer the essential question: **will the State Budget unlock South Australia's future?** Master Builders SA Chief Executive Officer Ian Markos will explain the impact on one of the State biggest employers, the building and construction industry.

Ends

For further information

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Available for interviews

Ian Markos, Chief Executive Officer