

All industry can be jailed

The State Government's proposed changes to the Security of Payment Act will create a new crime of "assaulting, threatening or intimidating" regarding a payment.

There is no place in the industry for this form of behaviour, which is why Master Builders SA has consistently condemned union tactics that rely on intimidation, insults and threats to break the law.

Master Builders SA will review the legislation when it is tabled later this week, but we would be surprised if it applied to only one part of the payment chain. It is far more likely to apply to all participants. Therefore, we are likely to see any party to a contract claim – builder, subcontractor, sub-subcontractors and so on – subject to two years' in prison for objectionable behaviour.

According to Small Business Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith, the building and construction sector employs more than 250,000 people and is responsible for \$34 billion in annual activity. This legislation needs to be well-crafted to improve payments, not just impose red tape without benefits. We look forward to working with the Government to ensure it delivers.

Ian Markos

Chief Executive Officer, Master Builders SA