

Master Builders SA releases blueprint for a building-led economic recovery

This year's State Budget is a time for serious action and a time for making hard decisions, Master Builders SA says.

“For me, the number one issue for South Australia is jobs,” said Master Builders SA CEO Ian Markos.

“I think the next state election will be decided on which party has the best plan to get more South Australians in stable employment. When people have a job they feel good about themselves. When they feel secure and confident they spend and invest, creating more jobs and a more vibrant community, the type of place that will make young South Australians in particular want to stay in. It really is contagious.

“In formulating our State Budget submission we have looked across Australia and overseas at policies that are proven to work.

“In doing this it is obvious The ‘Don’ is a controversial figure in the USA but despite all the relentless attacks from the naysayers the fact is the unemployment rate in the USA was just 3.5 per cent in December 2019 – a 50-year low.

“Who wouldn't want to see a 50-year low unemployment rate in South Australia?

“South Australia needs to follow the example of the United States' ‘pro-growth agenda’ – in particular low taxes and aggressive deregulation. It is the enterprise of the private sector that delivers long-term jobs growth and prosperity, and hard-working South Australians must be encouraged and supported.

“We also need to be a place outsiders want to invest in. The Marshall Government needs to relentlessly focus on cutting unnecessary red and green tape to create a ‘business utopia’ here in South Australia. This will require a change in mindset, a ‘can do’ attitude, but with hard work and commitment we will get there. We must be the cheapest place in Australia to do business.

“Building and construction is the second largest industry in Australia, directly employs more than 70,000 South Australians and last year undertook \$12 billion in work. You can't have a strong economy without a strong building industry and that is something that must never be taken for granted. If there is a strong government focus on allowing our industry to thrive, other areas of the economy should pick up too.”

A Business Utopia: Master Builders SA's blueprint for a building-led economic recovery focuses on key areas including:

- Abolishing stamp duty for first buyers on new builds
- Boosting the First Home Owner Grant in regional South Australia
- Investment in productive infrastructure (eg a second city sports stadium) and bringing forward delivery timeframes (eg the Women's and Children's Hospital)
- “Born to Build” – a “hands on” program in schools to increase awareness of excellent career opportunities in the building trades
- Capping any free increases for tradies at CPI
- Going nuclear to reduce power prices and improve reliability



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- Subsidising training (particularly for small business) that will result in employment
- Releasing more land
- Removing the foreign investor surcharge
- Reducing land tax
- Reducing the size of government bureaucracy and improving its efficiency (for example merging SafeWork SA and Return to Work SA)
- Building and construction – the second largest industry in Australia – being included in the Marshall Government’s Nine Priority Sectors

For further information

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