

STIMULUS AND INFRASTRUCTURE SPEND STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Builders, subcontractors, tradies, apprentices and suppliers will benefit from the Marshall Government's Budget, says Master Builders SA.

However, CEO Ian Markos said there was a missed opportunity to announce major new commercial building projects that would protect jobs and drive South Australia's social and economic recovery.

"Master Builders SA strongly welcomes the \$204 million investment to upgrade South Australia's outdated sporting infrastructure." said Master Builders SA CEO, Ian Markos.

"Without modern facilities we will not be able to attract world-class sporting events.

"It is great to see the extra \$50 million for the Aboriginal Art and Cultures Centre at Lot Fourteen.

"We look forward to seeing the details of the \$76 million housing construction stimulus. Whilst residential building is very strong now the industry will be in need of support once HomeBuilder expires at the end of the year.

"\$87.9 million for the skills and JobTrainer package and payroll tax relief for new apprentices will be important for creating employment opportunities for young South Australians.

"The significant investment in maintenance funding, the local Government infrastructure partnership program, the school loans scheme and acceleration of education capital works are all positive for our industry.

"However, there are no new large scale construction projects in the Budget.

"These include the Women's and Children's Hospital, a new concert hall in the Riverbank precinct, North Adelaide tram extension and redevelopment of the St Peter's Cathedral district.

"These large scale projects create jobs and drive economic growth and are badly needed in the current climate where private investment in commercial building is significantly down and expected to be quiet over the next few years.

"With record low interest rates we must keep building South Australia and protect the jobs of the more than 70,000 South Australians directly employed in the building and construction industry."

Available for interviews

Ian Markos,
0458 062 404