

MEDIA RELEASE

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MASTER BUILDERS SA URGES SWIFT REOPENING OF CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

South Australia's building and construction industry can and must reopen this Wednesday, Master Builders SA says.

"When building and construction stops, the South Australian economy stops," said CEO Ian Markos.

"Any prolonged shutdown of the building and construction industry will damage the economy, businesses and workers.

"The Marshall Government must protect the livelihoods of the more than 70,000 South Australians directly employed in the industry and allow us to re-open on Wednesday.

"We have clearly demonstrated throughout 2020 that our industry has been able to work in a Covid safe manner".

"The damage to business, peoples livelihoods, workers and clients has now already occurred. You can't just shut down this industry mid construction and expect everything will be ok".

"Even at the height of the crisis in Victoria when there were more than 700 new cases per day, the construction industry did not shut down completely.

"The NSW Government has the correct approach. Any response must be proportionate to the risk. The reality is local clusters are not a surprise and we can't keep locking down every time there is a new one. We have to learn to live with the virus.

"There were no new COVID-19 cases detected overnight. It is critical that the industry is able to commence planning this weekend for a start next Wednesday – or sooner, so that construction work can start in a safe, planned and controlled way.

"Residential builders were already flat out with pre-construction, design, engineering, client selections and so on. The shutdown will cause six days of lost productivity and will delay contract signings and HomeBuilder applications to the government.

"Delays will also make it extremely difficult for commercial builders to fulfil their contractual obligations, potentially costing them large amounts of money. The damage to plant and equipment, and half completed building work is of considerable concern.

"We commit to constructively working with the Marshall Government to reopen the industry as soon as possible."

Available for interviews
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