

EXTENSION OF HOMEBUILDER CONSTRUCTION COMMENCEMENT TIME REQUIREMENT PROVIDES MUCH NEEDED BREATHING SPACE FOR THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

The HomeBuilder commencement timeframe extension announced by the Morrison Government is a huge relief for the building industry which, due to extraordinarily high demand, is facing significant shortages in trades and timber, Master Builders SA says.

The HomeBuilder scheme originally required commencement within three months, but this was extended to six months in November 2020.

“The further extension to 18 months is a practical and welcomed response to resolve supply challenges within our industry,” said Chief Executive Officer, Will Frogley.

“Once again Minister Sukkar has listened to reports on the ground from Master Builders and he deserves full credit for continuing to back a building led social and economic recovery.

“Residential building is the busiest it has ever been, with approvals for new homes recently hitting an all-time high.

“The requirement to commence within six months of signing the contract has created a huge bottleneck for the trades and materials required in the first stages of a build. Today’s announcement will take the pressure off everyone whilst still retaining all the benefits of the grant.

“We have seen a significant increase in demand for demolition, earth moving and footing contracts. This coupled with the significant shortage in timber has created a lot of stress for new home builders and building companies.

“Master Builders SA has been strongly campaigning the Federal and State governments for these changes and this is a significant win for homebuyers and everybody who works in the residential building industry.

“Building and construction is the second largest industry in South Australia and provides 72,000 direct jobs. This extension will help protect jobs across the residential building sector and ensure builders can deliver quality homes.

“Master Builders SA would like to thank Minister Sukkar for making intelligent and practical policy changes in response to a growing crisis. It is great to see the Morrison Government recognising an issue and moving quickly to help alleviate the impact, and recognising that a strong building industry means a strong economy.”

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