

MEDIA RELEASE

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BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION WILL CONTINUE TO DRIVE SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY

South Australia's booming building and construction industry will continue to fast-track South Australia's social and economic recovery from COVID-19, Master Builders SA says.

"When building and construction is strong, South Australia's economy is strong," said Chief Executive Officer Will Frogley.

"Building and construction has been a standout performer with more than 4000 jobs added since COVID-19 hit. That's a massive reason why our recovery is ahead of schedule.

"What Master Builders wanted to see today is a strong pipeline of future work. This budget will enable South Australia's hi-vis, tradie-led social and economic fightback to continue.

"We are really pleased the Marshall Government has adopted numerous Master Builders SA policies, including significant investment in health, education and other social infrastructure, a new SASI headquarters, maintenance and upgrading of government buildings and a payroll tax exemption for apprentices and trainees.

"With the industry booming and excellent government incentives there has never been a better time to take on an apprentice.

"Master Builders SA has strongly advocated for work on the new Women's and Children's Hospital to commence as soon as possible and there is \$1.1 billion in the forward estimates.

"It is imperative that exciting projects such as the hospital, the new Rostrevor High School and the Riverbank Arena remain on schedule.

"This is a once in a generation opportunity to end the brain drain that has plagued our state. In this context the \$200 million Jobs and Economic Growth Fund and land tax tweaks to improve our attractiveness as a place to invest are strongly welcomed.

"The 50 per cent land tax reduction for build-to-rent projects will encourage investment, protect tradie jobs post-HomeBuilder and help address the severe rental property shortfall.

"One major challenge for the industry is severe shortages of materials and associated price spikes. The budget did not mention Master Builders SA's plan to unlock enough structural timber on Kangaroo Island to build 10,000 homes, but we believe the \$3 million of State Government money required can come from the Regional Growth Fund. This investment will ensure South Australia fully capitalises on record high-building approvals by speeding up cash flow, taking the heat out of price increases and enabling thousands of South Australians to move into their homes sooner."

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