



23rd July 2021

Hon Steven Marshall MP
Premier
GPO Box 2343
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Premier

RE: Construction Commencement

We were pleased to see the announcement that State Government has considered and is prepared to allow the resumption of construction activities within South Australia in a COVID safe way.

The building and construction sector plays a vital and important role in the South Australian economy and has been nothing short of the key reason for our economic survival through these recent times. The industry does approximately \$230 million of work in an average week and directly employs more than seventy thousand South Australians. More than five thousand extra South Australians are now employed in the industry than March last year.

On behalf of our respective members, we were however concerned about the lack of consultation and the selection of a small number of construction projects being able to commence from Monday. From the information provided, it states that “targeted projects will ensure essential services can be delivered to the SA community as promised”, and the State emergency coordinator has indicated that there is “a broader risk if they don’t continue”. There are however no obvious objective criteria the Government is using to determine this. Unfortunately, this adds to the angst and significant impact that a six-hour notice period to shut down the entire sector has already had and on our members. They have asked us to register their concerns in the absence of consultation and exclusion of private sector projects for consideration.

As the lockdown continues South Australian firms, particularly SMEs, livelihoods remain at risk and unlike Government, they simply do not have the capacity to absorb these delays. This is in addition to the massive supply chain issues, shortages of labour and material and price rises also faced that impact on cash flow and businesses sustainability.

Assuming from the announcement that a small number of projects can begin construction from Monday in the current environment, and together with our sector's excellent track record over the last 12 months operating safely in a COVID complying way (including social distancing, strict hygiene measures, masks and other PPE equipment), we request that you direct your office to begin immediately detailing a roadmap to construction commencement in consultation with our organisations.

In light of the announcement yesterday, it is our recommendation now that a safe restart of construction sites be targeted to commence on Monday (including appropriate supply chains), even if this is in a limited capacity. An announcement to this affect will also give firms an opportunity to plan accordingly.

Each of our organisations has expressed a willingness to work with the Government and we look forward to playing our part.

Yours sincerely



Steven Knight
Executive Director
South Australia

Housing Industry Association



Will Frogley
Chief Executive Officer

Master Builders SA



Pat Gerace
Chief Executive Officer

**Urban Development
Institute of Australia**



Larry Moore
Executive Director

**National Electrical and
Communications Association**



Andrew Clarke
Executive Director

Master Plumbers SA



Josh Gloede
President

**Australian Subcontractors
Association**

CC: Sally Neville, Adviser to the Premier