

Media Release

WA Government cash saves building jobs

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Master Builders WA says the WA Government's decision to dip into funds for a \$150million housing support package for tradies and builders has come at the perfect time.

Executive Director John Gelavis said bringing forward the jobs stimulus which was due to start in July is the move Master Builders had been asking for in recent correspondence with the government.

"We've been saying the time to act is now or the battle against the COVID-19 economic emergency could be lost just as the battle against the health emergency is starting to be won," he said.

"On the wishlist we put to the government on March 19 was an expansion in the social and community housing programs, further investment in Keystart and support for home renovations.

"The WA Government has shown its willingness to listen to industry and the courage to invest in jobs.

"In a recent Master Builders WA survey, more than 70 per cent of our members reported a 40 per cent decline in their pipeline of work.

"In addition, WA figures for the short period from March 14 to April 4 showed a 5.5 per cent contraction in building industry jobs.

"Home building starts this year are predicted to be the lowest since 1982, with the Housing Industry Forecasting Group cutting its forecast of 15,500 commencements down to 12,500 for 2019-20.

"The housing stimulus announced today includes support for regional and rural areas and will save many jobs across the state.

"The WA Government's agreement to let home building continue during the crisis kept many tradies and builders in work across the 39,970 small to medium businesses in the industry as well as helping to keep the economy ticking over.

"The residential housing industry is a large component of the \$24billion building and construction sector, employing thousands of workers and many small businesses such as mum and dad builders, subbies, manufacturers, suppliers and apprentices.

"Our industry is the second largest provider of full-time jobs, employing 120,000 West Australians."

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