

Media Release

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Housing Sector Outlook Hit Hard by COVID-19

Statement by Mr Matthew Pollock – Executive Director - Master Builders Tasmania

Up to 800 new homes will not be built in the next 12 months as a result of COVID-19 according to new economic modelling released today.

Master Builders Tasmania Executive Director, Matthew Pollock said: “new modelling released today by Master Builders Australia shows the devastating impact COVID-19 is having on the pipeline of residential construction projects.”

“While builders and tradies are getting by on work that commenced prior to the onset of COVID-19 that work is fast running out. New orders have deteriorated at an alarming rate and builders are reporting that enquiries are at a standstill.” Mr Pollock said

“This modelling follows a recent member impact survey undertaken by Master Builders Tasmania warned of a looming crisis facing the building industry.”

“In light of COVID-19, forecasts which in February showed the Tasmanian building and construction industry as the strongest in the country, now predict a concerning fall in new housing commencements if support for the sector is not provided soon.”

“The previous prediction was for new housing commencements to top 2,770 in 2020/21. We now expect there to be around 2,000, a drop of around 27 per cent. The impact will be in the months ahead when those projects which commenced pre-COVID-19 are finished up.”

“We want to safeguard thousands of jobs and small businesses and we’re calling on the Tasmanian Government to supercharge and fast-track their stimulus measures even further.”

“Let’s get creative with a new look grant to boost new home builds, a program to fund home renovations to make homes more energy efficient and bring forward public spending on buildings, like schools and hospitals.”



“Let’s look at ways that stimulates the economy, saves jobs and addresses issues to improve the quality of buildings we live in.”

“Measures such as these will help bring back confidence for consumers and businesses and hopefully turn the tide on the current wave of contract and tender cancellations or withdrawals.” Mr Pollock said

“The government has done an outstanding job to keep the community safe and taken appropriate steps to manage this health crisis. Industry can do the heavy lifting to avoid an economic crisis, but we will need support.”

“It’s crucial measures like these are introduced to bring back confidence for consumers and businesses and hopefully turn the tide on the current wave of contract and tender postponements and withdrawals.” Mr Pollock said

“The impacts of COVID-19 can be mitigated, but decisive action is needed now.”

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