

16 April 2024

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The Honourable Grace Grace
Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and
Minister for Racing
PO Box 15033
CITY EAST QLD 4002
By email: industrialrelations@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Grace
Dear Minister

Engineered stone ban – legislative change and transitional arrangements

Further to my letter dated 25 March 2024, I am writing to express Master Builders' concern that there is still no formal legislative change in Queensland banning engineered stone and no announcement of a transitional period.

1 July 2024 is 11 weeks away. Builders with contracts entered into prior to 13 December 2023 (the date of the announcement of the ban) are finding themselves in a very difficult situation. While contracts permit variations due to changes in statutory requirements, without legislation in place many contracts will not permit a change in benchtop specification.

Builders should not be expected to request a variation, knowing the client can agree or disagree, including any additional costs. This leaves builders either having to replace benchtop materials at their own cost, risk being in breach of contract, or continue in good faith (based on previous public comments in relation to a transition period) assuming that if the contract was entered into before 13 December 2023 there will be an ability to install an engineered stone benchtop until 31 December 2024.

As previously noted, we have the highest safety requirements in Queensland with two codes of practice for working with silica.

We urgently request an announcement from the Queensland Government of a transition period enabling builders with contracts entered into before 13 December 2023 to continue to install engineered stone benchtops until 31 December 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Bidwell
CEO