

POLICY & ADVOCACY AGENDA 2026



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Driving change where it matters most

A new chapter of growth is unfolding in Queensland. With the 2032 Olympics now firmly on the horizon, a pipeline of 'generational' infrastructure and a massive untapped demand for housing to be unlocked, the construction industry faces both exceptional opportunity and challenges.

To meet the challenges, construction businesses need a predictable environment where they can operate efficiently and sustainably. This includes resilient supply chains for building materials and skilled labour, and the flexibility to adopt innovative and more productive ways of working.

Reducing unnecessary red tape and creating clear, targeted regulatory frameworks will allow companies to deliver projects with confidence.

Workplace health and safety must remain paramount, backed by targeted regulation and clear enforcement.

Similarly, achieving a more sustainable and resilient built environment is best achieved when approached holistically, encompassing both new construction and upgrading existing buildings.

With the right environment, Queensland's construction industry can meet the challenges of this extraordinary pipeline of work and deliver the infrastructure and housing the state needs.

To achieve these ends, Master Builders' advocacy will focus on realising change in nine key areas.:

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Much has been achieved

With a new government came a fresh approach to many of the long-standing problems that were holding industry back. There have been quick 'wins' on a number of our priorities while longer-term opportunities for change continue to be developed.

In 2025, we achieved:

1. Best Practice Industry Conditions permanently repealed.
2. Updated government procurement policy that addresses many industry concerns.
3. End to the duplication of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland reporting.
4. Moratorium on changes to NCC provisions that impede housing affordability and a review to streamline and improve the usability of the NCC.
5. Paused the rollout of project trust accounts to private projects under \$10 million, helping many smaller construction businesses avoid financial and administrative chaos.
6. Through the Small Business Apprenticeship Pilot Program, \$19 million in grants for small-to-medium businesses to subsidise the wages of apprentices during training.
7. Ended unnecessary financial reporting for around 50,000 individual licensees in certain categories.
8. Began streamlining of WHS legislation and improvements to right of entry rules.
9. Strategic refocusing of the QBCC, resulting in the beginnings of a tangible improvement in fairness and transparency.
10. Commitment to correct the timing of payment under the Home Warranty Scheme.
11. Specialist fire protection workers given more time to meet new licensing rules.
12. Extension of the \$15,000 First Home Owner Grant Boost for a further 12 months, and the scrapping of stamp duty for eligible first home buyers.
13. Extension of the 50 per cent Apprentice Tax Payroll rebate.
14. Establishment of a Commission of Inquiry into the CFMEU.
15. Infrastructure funding to support the delivery of new homes.

Building our workforce

Workforce supply issues are already challenging and are expected to worsen as the large pipeline of work gets underway. We must do more to attract and retain people to our industry and to ensure that they have the appropriate skills to get the job done.

Advocacy with government:

1. BuildSkills Australia, Jobs Queensland and Construction Skills Queensland work collaboratively, and in consultation with industry, to ensure an agreed building and construction industry workforce plan.
2. Increase the efficiency and accessibility in the QBCC licensing process, including improved pathways for skills recognition for overseas migrants, to get more skilled contractors to work more quickly and more easily.
3. Provide realistic and practical licensing pathways that enable construction businesses to grow.
4. Allow new trade contractors into Queensland on a temporary 12-month licence limited to only contracting for other licensees.
5. Increase and sustain apprentice wage subsidies to incentivise commencements and improve completions.
6. Support targeted federal migration initiatives to supplement the local trade workforce with permanent skilled workers.
7. Fund women in construction programs to encourage women to enter the building and construction industry; support new female entrants into the industry; provide training and support to female-led businesses; and address unacceptable behaviour.

Master Builders-led initiatives:

- Continue to roll out the Master Builders Emerging Women in Construction program providing mentoring, training and networking opportunities to female apprentices in the construction industry.
- Promote the valuable contribution of women to our industry, and the opportunities the industry provides for women.
- Support Construction Skills Queensland's Construction Pathways program to improve careers education in high schools.
- Work through Master Builders' member committees to raise the profile of the sector as a career of choice.



Stable and transparent product supply chains

Supply-chain disruptions place significant pressure on construction timelines and businesses, jeopardising the delivery of new projects. With the projected pipeline of work, planning and preparation for potential obstacles is essential.

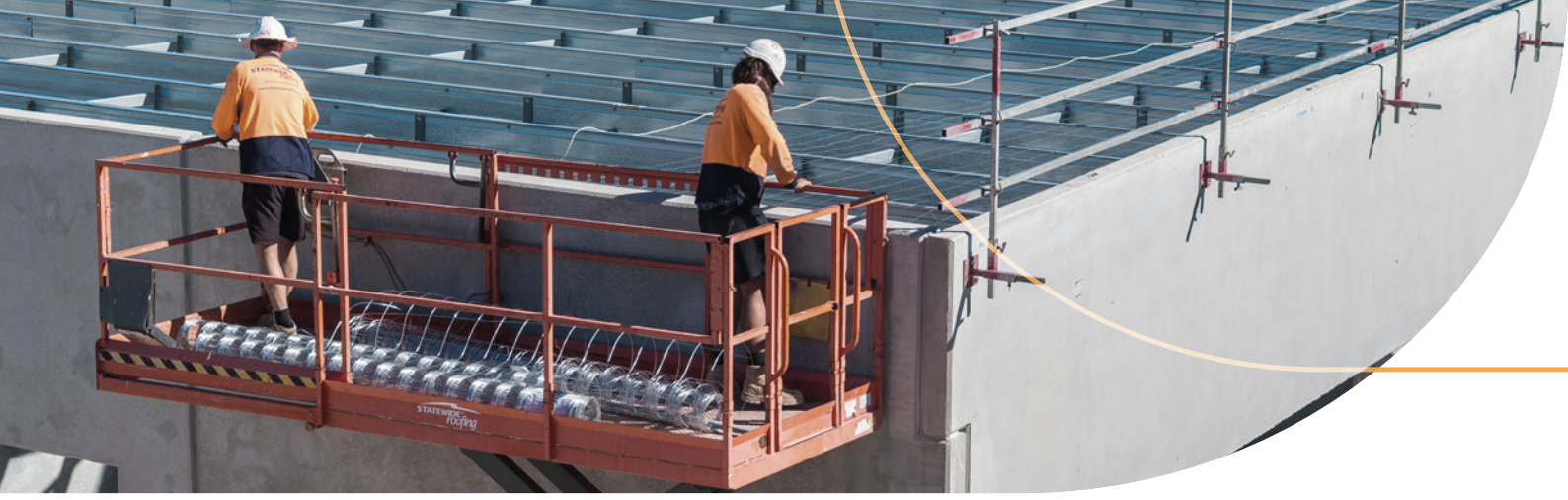
Advocacy with government:

1. Queensland Government has a transparent 10-year infrastructure plan supported by a detailed five-year infrastructure program which provides a coordinated and sustainable pipeline of work for small, medium, and large contractors.
2. Utilities networks (electricity, water and sewerage) are properly funded to allow efficient connections for new developments, as well as reworking the connections process to ensure timely and reliable connections, that do not add undue cost or time to new developments.
3. Queensland Timber Action Plan is properly funded to ensure its effective implementation.
4. Capacity of Queensland quarries to support a stable and sufficient supply of cement and aggregate for both the immediate and long-term.
5. Government leadership on the shared building blocks of traceability to facilitate the development of digital traceability systems across the construction supply chain.
6. Adopt the National Building Products Coalition's Proposal for Change for evidence of suitability in the NCC to improve building product assurance.

Master Builders-led initiative:

- Contribute to the National Building Products Coalition efforts to provide industry leadership in building product assurance for Australian building and construction.





Sustainable and innovative businesses

A more resilient, skilled and financially sustainable construction industry requires reforms targeting cashflow, security of payment, capability and government procurement. Builders need adequate cashflow, certainty of overhead costs and predictable labour and material costs.

Advocacy with government:

1. Scrap project trust accounts in favour of security of payment measures that work, are fair, and accessible.
2. Increase the deposit received under domestic building projects to 10 per cent, supporting contractors' ability to properly fund the necessary up-front construction work and to manage cash flow.
3. Upskill the industry through the introduction of compulsory continuing professional development (CCPD) for all QBCC contractor licensees in a way is targeted and practical.
4. Government procurement to provide fair and reasonable contract terms, risk allocation, tendering processes and contract administration in Queensland government contracts.
5. Grants for small-to-medium enterprises in the building industry to adopt business improvement software solutions.
6. Support for builders to expand the uptake of modern methods of construction.

Master Builders-led initiative:

- Develop and maintain industry template contracts which include fair and reasonable payment terms and stage payment claims.
- Support contractors in being able to better access existing security of payment protections through industry training and information.
- Work with construction unions to ensure enterprise agreements are implemented in a fair and flexible manner to improve productivity on work sites.
- Assist members to recover late payments and resolve payment disputes.

Better building regulation

Government policymakers must remember that decisions they make have potential for significant impacts on the delivery of new construction. All regulatory measures must be considered, practical and reasonable, with the benefits clearly offsetting the costs.

Advocacy with government:

1. Free access to Australian Standards referenced in the NCC.
2. Remove the mandate to comply with NCC 2022 energy efficiency and livable housing requirements.
3. Action on the 10 essential changes to NCC 2022 that are responsible for some of the worst cost hikes and technical problems.
4. Review the NCC both in its usability and in how code provisions are developed to have safety, quality and the process of building at its core.
5. Invest in the development of building regulation to properly address emerging construction challenges, supported by research, starting with electric vehicles in buildings.
6. Require all energy assessors to be accredited and audited.
7. Conduct an independent review of the interface between the Planning Act 2016 and Building Act 1975, with the objective of identifying and resolving points of friction, inconsistency, and regulatory duplication.
8. Increase the availability of steel fabricators who can meet the requirements of AS 5131.

Master Builders-led initiatives:

- Support government efforts to identify barriers and implement solutions to improve productivity in the building and construction industry.



Fair and transparent regulator

The Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) needs to operate as a best practice, balanced and robust regulator.

Advocacy with government:

1. Ensure accountability across the contractual chain by holding licensed subcontractors to account where they carry out defective work.
2. Filter consumer claims of defective work to limit productivity-sapping, improper or vexatious complaints.
3. Consistent, fair and reasonable enforcement practices that use due process, including reasonable time to fix a defect before a direction to rectify is issued.
4. Proactive, risk-based regulator where the regulatory outcomes are proportionate to the harm to be addressed.
5. Minimum Financial Requirements reporting to be streamlined and follow standard accounting practice.
6. Allow monies held in project and retention trust accounts to be included in Minimum Financial reports.
7. Record of superintendents and project managers to be included on the QBCC licensing register and adjudication record.

Master Builders-led initiatives:

- Continue to assist members to engage with the QBCC to resolve disputes, work through the licensing system, and navigate Queensland's building regulatory system.



Keeping workplaces safe

Health and safety need to be a central focus on every Queensland construction site, and a positive safety culture must be promoted on all worksites.

Advocacy with government:

1. Review Queensland's workplace health and safety laws to remove provisions that do not improve worker safety or create unnecessary duplication.
2. Ensure Queensland's workplace health and safety laws reflect, to the greatest extent possible, the National Model WHS Law.
3. Modernise the WorkCover scheme by tightening definitions, clarifying what is compensable, and reducing excessive or subjective claims.
4. Provide funding for additional front-line WHS inspectors, training of WHS inspectors and to expand WHSQ's industry education role.

Master Builders-led initiatives:

- Provide expert advice and training to members on current workplace safety issues.
- Continue to contribute to reviews of Queensland WHS Codes of Practice.

Environmental sustainability and resilience

Government and industry have set ambitious targets to improve the environmental sustainability of buildings. We will work towards a system-wide approach that delivers these objectives in the most practical and cost-effective way.

Advocacy with government:

1. Adopt a system-wide approach to addressing resilience that encompasses planning, infrastructure, investment and insurance and moves ahead of any resilience measures being included in the NCC.
2. Help homeowners to transition to more energy efficient and resilient homes by expanding and extending the two successful schemes in Queensland targeting existing homes: the Household Resilience Program (wind) and the Resilient Homes Fund (flood). Provide similar programs for commercial building owners.
3. Ensure the Queensland Government's actions to achieve net zero in the building and construction industry are implemented in a practical and reasonable way that does not add further regulatory or cost burden to the delivery of new construction.

Master Builders-led initiatives:

- Education for members on building practices for more resilient and environmentally sustainable buildings.
- Master Builders to provide training and information on erosion and sediment control.

Meeting Queensland's housing targets

We need to be building substantially more new dwellings each year to both address the current housing need and to keep pace with our growing population.

Advocacy with government:

1. Develop and implement mandatory statewide planning codes, starting with a Queensland Housing Code, to standardise basic siting and design requirements for detached houses, secondary dwellings, and small attached dwellings.
2. State government to support local government in ensuring a sustainable supply of build-ready, affordable land (both in-fill and greenfield) across Queensland.
3. Fund infrastructure to support new housing construction.
4. Incentives for new housing construction including taxation (such as stamp duty) concessions.
5. Extend the boost to the first homeowners grant beyond 30 June 2026 and explore removing the caps on house and land value.
6. Increase funding for social and affordable housing to meet the needs of Queenslanders.

Master Builders-led initiatives:

- Support members wanting to achieve accreditation by the Federal Safety Commissioner in order to access federal government funding for housing programs.
- Continue to participate in the Housing Diversity Community of Practice.
- Support the Queensland Government in advocating for Queensland's fair share of the Housing Australia Future Fund and other federal funding programs to help meet states housing targets.



Brisbane 2032 Legacy

There is an opportunity in the program of work to deliver on a legacy that will extend beyond the few weeks of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Advocacy with government:

1. Delivery of Queensland's Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure leaves a legacy that includes the Queensland building and construction industry.
2. Opportunity to build Queensland's Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure prioritises Queensland's construction industry, not large out-of-state companies.
3. New skills and learnings from delivering Queensland's Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure are retained by our own local apprentices, construction companies and workers, to benefit future Queensland construction projects.

Master Builders-led initiatives:

- Assist the Queensland Government to deliver a world-class Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

