

# THE BRICKLAYER

magazine

[www.masonrycontractors.com.au](http://www.masonrycontractors.com.au)

Official Publication of the Masonry Contractors Australia

VOLUME 2 | JUNE 2021

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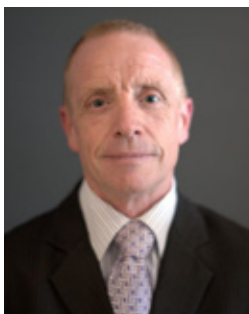






# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*June 2021*



Over the past two years we have experienced a great many challenges within our industry. From work on sites completely halting, to sites now authorised to work seven days per week with extended hours, after the very successful uptake of the Federal Government's HomeBuilder initiative.

Whether it's managing existing staff, or recruiting new staff, in this most uncertain of environments has confronted most of us. Trying to keep pace with quoting projects given the swiftly rising cost of materials, freight and labour has become testing. Although we can now breathe a little easier, as Australia's health and financial positions improve, there have been many adjustments that may stay with us for some time.

## **Building and Construction Employment**

Employment in building and construction fell to an estimated 1.17 million jobs over the year to June 2020. This accounts for 9.6% of total employment across the Australian economy at the end of FY2020. The projected decline in activity did drive deeper job losses of around 3.6% of building and construction jobs, accounting for around 42,000 job losses. The great news now is that this has begun to turn around.

## **Recovery is on the Horizon**

The revised forecasts factor in a rebound in FY2022, lifting Building and Construction work by 2.3% to \$230 billion. An eventual upturn in Residential Building and Engineering Construction will drive the recovery and can be seen in the rising number of new projects and demand for materials.

## **Industry Update**

- The detached housing incentives have led to record numbers of new housing projects. This has put pressure

on all trades and increased the demand for Apprentices.

- RTOs are seeing very good increases in 1st Year enrolments—some regions are reporting record numbers.
- In 12 months, ABBTF have increased their supported 1st Year Apprentice figures by over 60%. This is expected to continue for the remainder of the year.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the way we live and work. Australian workplaces of all sizes and across all industries have had to significantly modify their operations to protect their workers and the broader community. But now that we have begun an effective vaccine treatment program, I am hopeful we can slowly begin a road to return to business as usual. Workplaces for now however will need to work within our 'new normal' and must continue implementing measures to reduce the spread of the virus, respond to the re-emergence of cases and to play their part in preventing health systems from being overwhelmed and preventing unnecessary deaths. Whilst these changes have certainly impacted our lives and businesses, together I am sure we can all work through these challenging times.

As President of the Masonry Contractors Australia (MCA), I firmly believe that the MCA can solidify its reputation in the Construction Industry as a valued provider of information, experience and knowledge. Our aim is to help grow innovative solutions to advance the Bricklaying Industry that help our Members grow as individuals and businesses, and overcome challenges. The MCA is an organisation truly capable of benefiting and profiting both Members and our Supporters. I would like to take this opportunity to pledge that I and the MCA Executive Team will devote our full efforts to exceed Member's expectations.

Thank you.

**Brendan Coyle**  
**President**



# BREAKFAST MEETING 23 JUNE 2021

**NOVOTEL SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK  
FOREST ROOM • 7:30-9:30AM  
REGISTRATION FROM 7:15**

Welcome Address: President

Guest Speakers:

**Paul Lawrence** Crystalline Silica App

**Peter Murphy** MBA NSW: Safety Issues

**Bruce Perry** Cement Australia:

The Future of Cement in a Carbon Neutral World

**COST: \$50 +GST**

**POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS ARE INVITED**

Register by Wednesday 16 June to [tvanbreugel@mbansw.asn.au](mailto:tvanbreugel@mbansw.asn.au)

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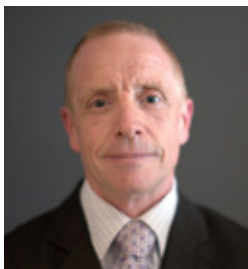


**CSR**



# BOARD MEMBERS

*The peak industry association for bricklayers, Masonry Contractors Australia (MCA) is run and operated entirely by volunteers. Our Board Members all have extensive industry experience and are dedicated to assisting and promoting the bricklaying and blocklaying industry in Australia.*



**PRESIDENT**  
**BRENDAN COYLE**  
Oldfields

Brendan has more than 30 years experience in the Masonry Industry. He has worked as a bricklayer in Ireland, England, New Zealand and across Australia. With more than 20 years' Senior Management experience, being employed by two Australian major brick manufacturers for approximately 15 of these years. Brendan also has a Masters in Business (MBA).



**VICE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**LAURA CARR**  
Construction Manager  
Walsos Bricklaying  
(NSW) Pty Ltd

Laura arrived in Australia from the UK in July 2005, and after travelling around the country decided to settle in Sydney. She enrolled and completed a Diploma of Business Management and Work Health and Safety (WHS).

Laura attended Australian Technical and Further Education (TAFE) as an International Student, and in 2010 completed a Certificate IV in Building and Construction. She commenced in the Construction Industry as an Estimator for Walsos Bricklaying (NSW) Pty Ltd and now oversees every aspect of the business.



**EXECUTIVE MEMBER**  
**TIM MURPHY**  
Director  
FUGEN Holdings Pty Ltd

Tim and his brother Dan established FUGEN (Bricklaying) in 1984, and still operate the business to this day. Tim was a founding member of the MCA, under the leadership of 'Jock' Cameron (and John White). Tim is proud to still be involved with the MCA and the Masonry Industry.



EXECUTIVE MEMBER  
**CON ZARAFETAS**

Executive Director  
Conrina Masonry  
Pty Ltd

Con Zarafetas, founder of the Conrina Group, has been involved in the Masonry Industry for more than 30 years. His love for the industry manifests in his commitment to the promotion of the positive aspects that masonry delivers, and also through his involvement with the MCA. Con, an experienced Director, demonstrates an ability to grow organisations to be both financially and ethically sustainable, rewarding all stakeholders in the process. Con has a Graduate Diploma of Management from Macquarie University and is currently completing his Master of Business (MBA) at MGSM.



EXECUTIVE MEMBER  
**JOHN WHITE**

Senior Commercial  
Business Development  
Manager  
PGH Bricks & Pavers  
NSW

John has been involved with the MCA since 1997, and served as Executive Officer from 2003 to 2013. Primarily from a sales background, John has sold everything relating to the industry, including bricks, blocks, sand, and cements through to wall ties, as well as bricklaying services. He has a basic knowledge of remedial and rectification work. Companies he has worked for include Aalborg, ABBTF, Austral, Boral, Brick & Block, Melcann, Statewide and Westox. John's motivation for his work with the Association is to contribute to the continuance of a trade which has fed and clothed him for over 30 years.



EXECUTIVE MEMBER  
**SAM FAVETTI**

Operations Manager /  
Supervisor  
Favetti Pty Ltd

Sam Favetti is a bricklayer with over 40 years of experience, he is also a business owner as the Director and Operator of the Favetti Group of Companies. The Favetti Group is involved in commercial and residential construction, and is responsible for some of Sydney's iconic brick buildings. Bricklaying is Sam's daily passion, and keeping the trade strong is his commitment to the industry. An MCA Member who wants to contribute his experience for the betterment of the trade, Sam has a Certificate IV in Building and an Associate Diploma in Construction Management.



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
**TRACEY VAN BREUGEL**

Master Builders  
Association of NSW  
Secretariat to Masonry  
Contractors Australia

Tracey has been employed by the Master Builders Association of NSW (MBA NSW) for five years. Tracey is the administrator for three Industry Sectors: Masonry Contractors Australia (MCA), Metal Roofing and Cladding Association of Australia (MRCAA) and Livable Housing Australia (LHA).





# Annual Awards & Dinner 2020 & 2021



**FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER 2021 | 6:30PM**  
DOLTONE HOUSE | JONES BAY WHARF | PYRMONT  
Further details to follow

**SAVE THE DATE**

## Excellence in Brick & Block Laying Awards 2020 & 2021

*Entries of Projects from 2020 and 2021 will be accepted.*

All entries are to be accompanied by no more than 15 high resolution (minimum 300dpi and no smaller than A4) photographs of the Project. Included in the 15 photographs must be 3 of the overall Project. Alternatively, large files may be sent via OneDrive or saved to a USB memory stick and:

**Mailed to:**

Masonry Contractors Australia  
Attention: Tracey Van Breugel  
"MCA Brick and Block Laying  
Awards 2020 & 2021"  
Private Bag 9  
BROADWAY NSW 2007

**Or delivered to:**

Attention: Tracey Van Breugel  
Ground Floor, 52 Parramatta Road  
FOREST LODGE NSW 2037

**Or emailed to:**

[tvanbreugel@mbansw.asn.au](mailto:tvanbreugel@mbansw.asn.au)

**Excellence in Brick &  
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2020 & 2021 Entry Form**  
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**Commercial Drone  
Registration Flyer**  
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## ENTRIES CLOSE: Friday 6 August 2021





SEPTEMBER

# BREAKFAST MEETING 15 SEPTEMBER 2021

**NOVOTEL SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK  
FOREST ROOM  
7:30-9:30AM  
REGISTRATION FROM 7:15AM**

Welcome Address: President

Guest Speakers:

**Rory Cameron**

AusMortar

**Madeleine Jones / Rosalind Pollock**

ABCC – Security of Payment

**Brian Seidler**

MBA NSW Executive Director – Industry Update

**COST: \$50 +GST**

**POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS ARE INVITED**

Register by Wednesday 8 September to [tvanbreugel@mbansw.asn.au](mailto:tvanbreugel@mbansw.asn.au)



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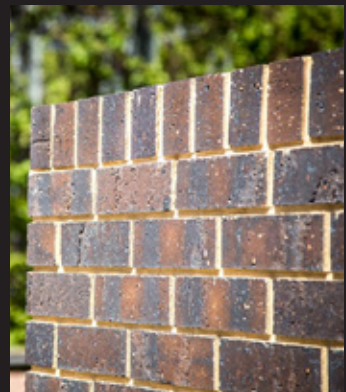
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# UPDATES



Australian Government  
Australian Taxation Office

## from the Australian Taxation Office

### Getting Your BAS Right

Keeping good records helps you stay on top of your business. When you're completing your business activity statement (BAS), there are a few key things to remember.

- Keep accurate and complete records of all sales, fees, expenses, wages and other business costs
- Use the ATO record keeping evaluation tool to help you assess how well you're keeping your business records
- Only lodge one BAS for each period. If your form has been replaced, you should use the replacement form and not the original
- If you lodge electronically, there's no need to send the paper form
- Only complete fields that apply to you – if you have nothing to report, enter zero
- Make sure that you have entered the figures for your obligations at the correct label
- Enter whole dollar amounts – leave cents out and don't round up to the next dollar
- Lodge online and you may get an extra two weeks to lodge and pay your BAS
- Registered tax agents and BAS agents can help you

And if you make a mistake, you can revise or fix it on your next BAS. Examples of mistakes include:

- Clerical or transposition errors
- Classifying a GST-free sale or

purchase as taxable

- Classifying a taxable sale or purchase as GST-free
- Double counting some of your purchases

### New Tax Tables Released

The ATO produce a range of tax tables to help employers work out how much to withhold from payments they make to employees. You can download these tax tables at [www.ato.gov.au/Rates/Tax-tables/](http://www.ato.gov.au/Rates/Tax-tables/).

The ATO has now updated tax withholding schedules to reflect the 2020–21 income year personal tax cuts.

Employers now need to make adjustments in their payroll processes and systems in order for the tax cuts to be reflected in employee's take-home pay. Employers must make sure they are withholding the correct amount from salary or wages paid to employees for any pay runs processed in their system.

The complexity of implementing these adjustments may be different for each employer. This means that some employees may notice the tax cuts reflected in their take-home pay within a few days or weeks, while for others it may be longer. Any withholding on the old scales will be taken into account in the employee's tax return.

### GST and the Margin Scheme

The margin scheme is a way of working out the GST you must pay when you sell property as part of your business. The margin scheme is

subject to eligibility. If you use the margin scheme, the parties must have a written agreement to use the margin scheme before settlement.

The amount of GST normally paid on a property sale is equal to one eleventh of the total sale price. When using the margin scheme, the amount of GST on a property sale is equal to one eleventh of the margin.

When calculating the margin, it is generally the difference between the sale price and either the:

- Amount you paid for the property if you are using the consideration method
- Value of the property provided in an approved valuation of the property if you are using the valuation method

You can use the GST property decision tool to check your eligibility and help with calculating the GST. Visit the ATO website to find out more.

### New Online Services for Business

Online services for business is replacing the Business Portal as the place for businesses to manage their tax and super obligations online. This new system was developed with business and for business.

Online services for business enables businesses to engage with the ATO online. This new service is streamlined and contemporary allowing business owners access at any time of the day on multiple devices, including your phone or tablet.

The online services are quick, easy,





tailored, and secure. They allow business owners to manage business reporting and transactions at a time that is convenient for them. If they use a registered tax or BAS agent for their tax and superannuation matters, they can still access the online services.

You can use Online services for business for most of your business interactions with the ATO. For example, you can:

- View, prepare, lodge and revise activity statements
- View, prepare, lodge and revise your taxable payments annual report
- Create payment plans
- Switch between your businesses with a single log in
- View statements of account and find your payment reference number
- Manage your accounts and update

your tax registration details (for example, add or cancel a role)

- View your single touch payroll reports
- Register for goods and services tax (GST) and pay as you go (PAYG) withholding
- Access new secure mail subjects
- Access the small business superannuation clearing house
- View and print tax returns and income tax history (if you are a sole trader, continue to use ATO online)
- Customise your home page

The ATO asked participants to test Online services for business. Leonie is a business owner who has been using the ATO's online services for many years, and she volunteered to try out the new system.

"It's far better to be a part of the

process of change as a stakeholder and provide input. Online services for business is how we'll interact with the ATO in future, so it makes sense to be part of that process," she said.

Leonie is pleased with the ease of navigation within the new system. "I like the simplicity of downloading information to CSV or HTML, and the added hyperlink to the actual lodgement saves me a lot of time and pain."

Leonie's advice to those who haven't switched to Online services for business yet?

"Do it! It's simple and easy, and no different to using your other online services, like internet banking, social media or email."

Support is available directly from the ATO over the phone on: 13 28 61, or online at: [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)



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# JobMaker Hiring Credit

**The JobMaker Hiring Credit will give businesses incentives to take on additional young job seekers. This will help young people access job opportunities as the economy recovers.**

The JobMaker Hiring Credit will be available to employers for each new job they create over the next 12 months for which they hire an eligible young person, aged 16 to 35 years old.

It is expected that around 450,000 positions for young Australians will be supported through the JobMaker Hiring Credit at a cost of \$4 billion from 2020 to 2023.

## Key Information

The JobMaker Hiring Credit is designed to support new employment.

Eligible employers will be able to claim \$200 a week for each additional eligible employee they hire aged 16 to 29 years old, and \$100 a week for each additional eligible employee aged 30 to 35 years old.

New jobs created until 6 October 2021 will attract the JobMaker Hiring Credit for up to 12 months from the date the new position is created.

To be eligible, the employee must have received the JobSeeker Payment, Youth Allowance (Other), or Parenting Payment for at least 28 consecutive days within the 84 days prior to the start of employment.

The JobMaker Hiring Credit will be claimed quarterly in arrears by the employer from the ATO from 1 February 2021. Employers will need to report information about their entitlement quarterly.

## What are the Criteria?

To attract the JobMaker Hiring Credit, the employee must be in an additional job that was created after 7 October 2020. To demonstrate that the job is additional, specific criteria must be met.

This criteria, called the additionality criteria, requires that there is an increase in:

- The business' total employee headcount from the reference date of 30 September 2020
- The payroll of the business for the JobMaker period, as compared to a three month baseline period to 6 October 2020

The amount of the Hiring Credit claim cannot exceed the amount of the increase in payroll for the reporting period.

Total employee headcount on 30 September 2020 and payroll in a three month period up to and including 6 October 2020, which is equal to the number of days in the claim period, represent the baseline values for the employer.

The baseline headcount will be adjusted in the second year of the program to ensure an employer can only receive the JobMaker Hiring Credit for 12 months for each additional position created.

## Are you Eligible as an Employer?

Employers are eligible to receive the JobMaker Hiring Credit if they:

- Have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Are up to date with tax lodgement obligations
- Are registered for Pay As You Go

(PAYG) withholding

- Are reporting through Single Touch Payroll (STP)
- Meet the additionality criteria
- Are claiming in respect of an eligible employee
- Have kept adequate records of the paid hours worked by the employee they are claiming the hiring credit in respect of

## What if You're a New Business?

Newly established businesses and businesses with no employees at the reference date

of 30 September 2020 are able to claim the JobMaker Hiring Credit where they meet the criteria from their first eligible employee.

## Which Employers are not Eligible?

The following employers are not eligible for the JobMaker Hiring Credit:

- Commonwealth, state and local government agencies, and entities wholly owned by these agencies
- Entities in liquidation or who have entered bankruptcy
- Employers who are claiming the JobKeeper Payment
- Employers subject to the major bank levy

## Which Employees are Eligible?

To be an eligible employee, the employee must:

- Be aged either 16 to 29 years old, to attract the payment of \$200 per week, or 30 to 35 years old to attract the payment of \$100 per week
- Have worked or has been paid for at





least 20 paid hours per week on average for the time the individual was employed during the JobMaker period

- Commenced their employment between 7 October 2020 and 6 October 2021
- Have received the JobSeeker Payment, Youth Allowance (Other), or Parenting Payment for at least 28 consecutive days within the 84 days prior to starting employment
- Be in their first year of employment with this employer
- Must be employed in the period that the employer is claiming for them

Employees may be employed on a permanent, casual or fixed-term basis.

Employees are ineligible for the JobMaker Hiring Credit if they are aged under 16 or over 35, if they are receiving the JobMaker Hiring Credit from another employer, and if they on average worked or have been paid for fewer than 20 hours a week for the time the individual was employed during the JobMaker period.

Employees for whom the employer is

also receiving a wage subsidy under another Commonwealth program, such as the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy, Supporting Apprentices and Trainees subsidy or the Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy Trial, are also ineligible.

### FAQs

#### How do I register for the JobMaker Hiring Credit?

Registrations are open for eligible employers through ATO online services. Employers do not need to be registered at the time that they hire an employee to be eligible. Registration can occur at any time before the end of the claim period for which you want to claim the Hiring Credit. The ATO is administering the Hiring Credit and further information is available at: [www.ato.gov.au/General/JobMaker-Hiring-Credit/](http://www.ato.gov.au/General/JobMaker-Hiring-Credit/).

#### How and when do I lodge a claim for the JobMaker Hiring Credit?

Employers can submit claims from 1 February 2021 (for new eligible jobs created in the first JobMaker period of 7 October 2020 to 6 January 2021).

Employers will have three months to

submit claims following the opening of the claim period.

#### When will I receive the JobMaker Hiring Credit?

The JobMaker Hiring Credit will be paid quarterly in arrears. Employers can claim the first payment when claims open on 1 February 2021 (for new jobs created between 7 October 2020 and 6 January 2021). You can generally expect to receive your payment within five days of your claim being processed.

#### How much is the JobMaker Hiring Credit and who pays it?

For eligible employers who hire eligible employees aged 16 to 29 years old at the time of employment, the JobMaker Hiring Credit is \$200 a week. For eligible employers who hire eligible employees aged 30 to 35 years old at the time of employment, the JobMaker Hiring Credit is \$100 a week. The ATO will pay the JobMaker Hiring Credit to you, the employer.

For further information, visit: [www.ato.gov.au/General/JobMaker-Hiring-Credit/](http://www.ato.gov.au/General/JobMaker-Hiring-Credit/)

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# HomeBuilder Construction Deadline Extended

**The Federal Government has extended the deadline to begin construction under the HomeBuilder grants program. This extension will provide an additional 12 months to commence construction from the time of contract, meaning that any applicants who have already signed contracts with their builder will have 18 months to start building.**

Applicants have until 30 April 2023 to submit all supporting documentation (such as invoices for work done, and proof that construction has commenced) to their State or Territory Revenue Office. All applicants who signed contracts during the HomeBuilder eligibility period between 4 June 2020 and 31 March 2021 will have this extension applied to them.

This extension has been praised by the building and construction industry, which has struggled to meet the enormous demand since the introduction of the program in mid-2020.

HomeBuilder has been extremely successful, with record levels of people applying to build a home or to undertake renovations. This has led to many jobs in the industry being saved following the losses of COVID-19.

## **The HomeBuilder Program**

HomeBuilder is a grant program implemented by the Federal

Government in July 2020. The scheme was designed to stimulate and support the building and construction sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the scheme, eligible Australians could apply for a grant of \$25,000 to build a new home, or to significantly renovate their existing home. The work created by these new builds and renovation would keep builders and contractors in jobs.

There was no limit placed on the amount of people able to access the scheme. To be eligible, people had to be Australian citizens who were either spending between \$150,000 and \$750,000 on renovations for a home that has been valued at less than \$1.5 million, or who were building a new home that is worth less than \$750,000, including the value of the land.

## **HomeBuilder Scheme Success**

Since the introduction of the scheme, more than 121,000 Australians have applied for the HomeBuilder grant, which is expected to support around \$30 billion of residential construction projects.

Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics reveals the success of the HomeBuilder program in stimulating the building and construction industry. Results released in early April showed that detached building approvals

reached their highest level on record in February 2021.

Tim Reardon, Chief Economist at Housing Industry Association (HIA), noted that "the number of loans for the construction of a new dwelling [marked] six consecutive months of record highs."

HomeBuilder was originally due to end in December 2020, and the data for the second half of the year showed a sharp increase in people wanting to build their own home. "New home sales spiked in December as home buyers rushed to meet the deadline of the first phase of HomeBuilder," Reardon said.

The industry has also been kept busy with renovations. Lending for renovation reached its highest level since 2009 in February 2021, with many experts attributing this to people's new desire to improve their homes following long lockdowns.

"The value of loans for alterations and additions in the three months to February 2021 is 47.6% higher than the same time last year," Reardon said. "Households have changed their spending habits in response to the COVID-19 interruptions. Many have diverted funds that would have typically been spent

## **Purpose of HomeBuilder Extension**

Originally, the HomeBuilder grant was





only able to be used for building contracts that were executed between 4 June and 31 December 2020, and work had to begin within three months of the contract date.

But the government has now extending the construction deadline from six months to 18 months, to give more time to applicants and alleviate the pressure on the housing and construction sector.

Many building businesses have been finding it difficult to keep up with the influx of demand, especially with other parts of the supply chain under pressure from the pandemic. Global supply chains are facing ongoing delays, and local issues have affected building start dates.

In New South Wales and Queensland, flooding has prevented some builds and renovations from going ahead. And In Victoria, where lockdowns were longer and more restrictive during much of 2020, home buyers have been unable to get out and begin the process of a new build.

The Victorian Building Industry voiced their complaints in September 2020, saying that they had been unable to

take advantage of the scheme before the then-deadline of December. Fiona Nield, from the HIA, said that "to be eligible for the grant, homebuyers need to sign a home building contract by 31 December. Even after home buyers are able to visit display suites and choose their builder, there will be limited time to complete the detailed design requirements before this deadline."

These calls for more time from the building and construction industry, and from home builders hoping to use the grant program, have prompted the extensions by the government.

"Extending the construction commencement requirement will smooth out the HomeBuilder construction pipeline, support jobs in the construction sector, and ensure that existing applicants facing difficulties in starting construction on their new builds and renovations are not denied a HomeBuilder grant due to circumstances outside their control," Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said.

### Reaction From The Industry

The building and construction sector approve of the extension to the scheme.

Denita Wawn, CEO of Master Builders Australia said, "The scale of the HomeBuilder success has created huge pressure on the supply chain, with Master Builders Australia's survey of the industry showing that 70% of builders are being hit by delays and cost increases for key trades and building products."

She said that some HomeBuilder applicants could miss out on the grants because builders could not meet the construction start date requirements.

"Thanks to this move by the Federal Government, thousands of HomeBuilder applicants around the country can now breathe a huge sigh of relief," Wawn said. "This will help builders and tradies maximise and manage the extraordinary success of HomeBuilder."

Wawn praised the government for introducing the program and saving many jobs and businesses that suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For further information, visit: [treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/homebuilder](https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/homebuilder)



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# Building & Construction

**The New South Wales economy remains strong, with the building and construction industry benefiting from the success of the HomeBuilder grants scheme.**

Master Builders Association NSW March 2021 Economic Update revealed the high numbers of both residential and non-residential building taking place in the state. The data shows the healthy state of the building and construction labour market, with 367,588 people employed in the sector in New South Wales as of February 2021.

There are 131,392 construction businesses in the state, with majority of these having less than twenty employees. 8.9% of jobs in New South Wales are in construction.

During the September 2020 quarter, 14,122 new homes were completed in New South Wales. An additional 13,125 new homes commenced construction. The outlook for residential building remains positive, with an extraordinary 62,925 new homes still under construction on 30 September 2020. Majority of these will be apartments/units, with 47,459 apartments under construction compared to 15,466 detached houses.

Residential building approvals are shown to have shifted in January 2021 compared with the same time the previous year. The total new home building approvals were 3,895, a -1% change on January 2020. The breakdown of approvals is as follows:

- 2,258 detached houses, 18.3% more than January 2020
- 1,597 units/apartments, 14.2% less than January 2020
- \$230.8 million on home renovations, 6.7% less than January 2020

In civil construction, \$5.48 billion of works were started in the September 2020 quarter. \$6.21 billion of works were completed, and a further \$16.69 billion of works were still in the pipeline at the end of September.

Majority of completed civil works in New South Wales were on roads, which accounted for \$1,817 million. Other large areas of spending were electricity (\$963.6 million) and other transport (\$903.7 million).



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# BUSHFIRES & MASONRY

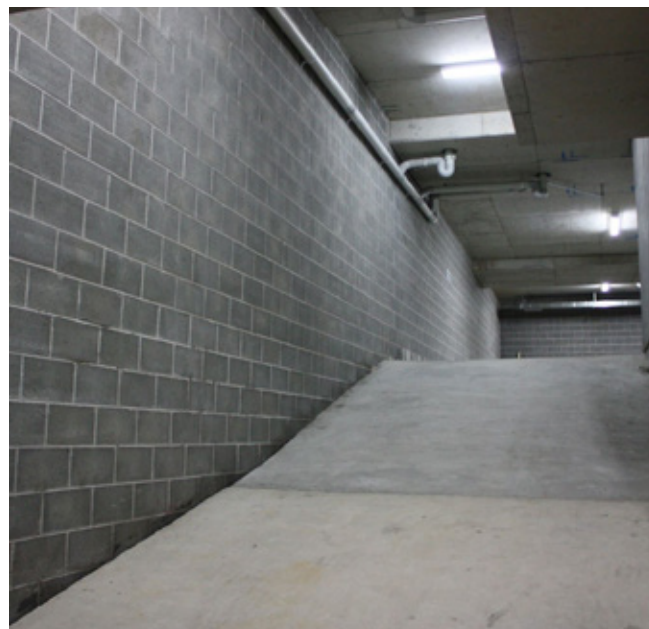
## by Baines Masonry

*Fire is a real and immediate danger for buildings across Australia, with fires forming quickly and destroying structures without discrimination. Ensuring a building is fire resistant through the choice of the fire-resistant materials has become paramount for designers, builders, and specifiers in order to provide the highest safety standard for occupants.*

### Understanding The Risks Of Bushfire Attacks

Under current building standards, all new constructions and renovations are to be assessed and rated to one of six Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) categories ranging from low to extreme. The BAL levels are based on heat flux exposure thresholds, which measure the amount of energy per square metre of radiant heat exposure.

BAL	DESCRIPTION OF RISK	RISK
BAL – LOW	The lowest risk from a potential fire.	Very Low
BAL – 12.5	Risk is primarily from potential embers during a fire.	Low
BAL – 19	Moderate risk, particularly from embers and burning debris.	Moderate
BAL – 29	High risk, particularly from embers, debris, and heat.	High
BAL – 40	Very high risk. Likely to be impacted by embers, debris, heat and potentially flames.	Very high
BAL – FZ	Extreme risk. Directly exposed to the flames of a potential fire front.	Extreme



The level of bushfire risk affects the development requirements, with higher levels of protection needed with higher levels of risk. Factors that may affect the level of risk include the area of construction, the vegetation, the distance to vegetation and the terrain. For information on specific bushfire construction requirements contact a professional builder or your local council.



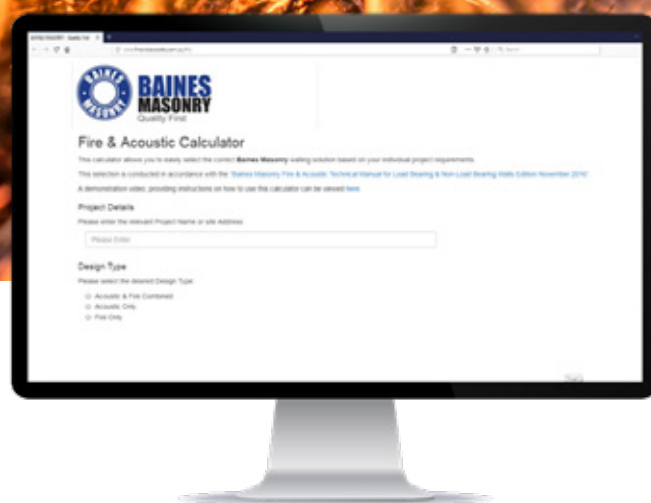


### Baines Masonry Fire Masonry

At Baines Masonry we have developed two ranges of fire-rated masonry blocks, for load-bearing and non-loading bearing walls: the Betta Block and Dense Weight block masonry systems. Both masonry systems are available in various unit sizes and are suitable for core filled and non-core filled applications. Their material composition and specific unit dimensions have been optimised, tested, and assessed by leading organisations around Australia in order to provide exceptional fire and acoustic performances.

### Baines Masonry Fire and Acoustic Calculator

Our fire and acoustic calculator allows you to quickly and easily select the correct Baines walling solution based on your individual project requirements. This simple tool takes the guesswork out of specification and gives designers and specifiers the peace of mind that they are fully complying with industry requirements and significantly reducing their exposure to liability.



To use the tool, enter a few simple design parameters that include the required wall type, installation environment, acoustic and fire insulation requirements, and the relevant National Construction Code (NCC) requirement. The calculator then instantly provides a tailored shortlist of Baines Masonry products that meet the specified parameters. The shortlist is also provided in printable PDF format, allowing you to retain a hard copy for reference or insertion into tender documents. Try it Today!

For more information on our range of fire-rated masonry, our fire and acoustic calculator or to talk to one of our team, visit our website [www.bainesmasonry.com.au](http://www.bainesmasonry.com.au).



# TURN VISION TO REALITY

## FOR SYDNEY'S PHOENIX GALLERY By Ancon Bespoke Fixings

*Bespoke Ancon masonry fixings and restraints, specially designed and manufactured by world leading construction support specialist, Leviat, have enabled designers to achieve the unique sculptured brick façade of Sydney's iconic, multi award-winning, Phoenix Gallery.*

Phoenix, the private gallery of Arts philanthropist, Judith Neilson, blurs the distinction between art and architecture. Designed in a unique collaboration by renowned architectural practices, John Wardle Architects and Durbach Block Jagers, the building brings together distinct and intimate gallery, garden, and performance spaces, within a complex continuous external brickwork skin.

Supported around an internal concrete and steel frame, the brickwork façade dimples, twists and curls in three dimensions to create unique details that define the building. This presented major support and restraint challenges for the Architects, Main Contractor, FDC Construction, and Brickwork Specialists Favetti.

The complexity of the details meant that purpose-designed masonry support systems would be required to bridge the

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Phoenix Central Park, Sydney

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differing structural frame and masonry profiles. As most Ancon support systems are designed and manufactured to suit individual applications, Leviat was able to provide a full package of practical and economic solutions, working closely with the contractor to co-ordinate and design on site, as building progressed.

To limit differential movement and reduce the size of the raking masonry panels, Favetti used 168 metres of Ancon MDC and Ancon LDC Bespoke Bracket Angle Support System and Cleats, fixed to channels cast into the structure at each floor level and pre-profiled to ensure that support angle legs remained horizontal whilst following the brick profile on plan.

Following detailed site measurements, Leviat was also able to design and manufacture a bespoke solution for the eye-catching 'torsion' corner detail that ran through the support system at one level.

Brickwork panels were restrained vertically using 2000 Ancon SDB Wall Ties, fixed back to the structural concrete frame. Ancon SD25 Wall Ties were also used in conjunction with 613 metres of Ancon 25/14 Channel, for fixing directly to the structural steel frame.

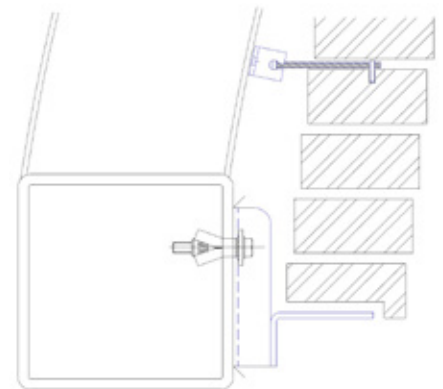
The O'Connor Street façade, however, was the most complex due to large variations between the masonry and structural frame around the huge dimple feature. Working with the

designers and contractors, the Leviat team developed a bespoke restraint solution that was submitted for testing by Newcastle University. Over

600 special multi-adjustable wall ties, which mechanically engage with the bricks to provide secure restraint, were subsequently manufactured for the project.

"This was a memorable build, not only for the technically complex brickwork, but for the level of collaboration and expertise of all involved", said Brendan Addison, Project Manager at Favetti. "The support we received from Leviat was exceptional. Working closely with their Sydney office, we were able to design, engineer and manufacture the complicated structural elements as needed, helping us to deliver truly outstanding results."

The Leviat team provided full technical support throughout the project, which now counts two further prestigious 2020 awards, Dezeen Awards 'Cultural Building of the Year' and Think Brick's 'Horbury Hunt Commercial Award', amongst its growing list of accolades.







# 2020 A YEAR WE'D LIKE TO FORGET

## by Complete Lintels Building Supplies

*Contrary to what was predicted in February 2020, the building industry showed no signs of decline during the pandemic, a time of worldwide uncertainty. Instead, local residential and commercial construction boomed and continued to forge ahead despite the economic volatility of the year.*



It seems that, because individuals and families cannot travel overseas, people have now shifted their focus to buying, selling & renovating. CLBS has flourished in this time, and with our rock-solid business infrastructure, our committed team, and our efficient workflow, we have continued to maintain a consistent and high-quality supply of building products to the Sydney market. CLBS crossed the 2020 finish line stronger than ever, and 2021 has continued to follow in the same vein.

The adage, "you are a product of your environment," brings truth to the current climate. Company Director Mino Pellizzon states, "At Complete Lintels Building Supplies (CLBS), our loyal yet expanding customer base is a product of the CLBS environment. Even though our staff collectively forms a total of 125 years of building industry experience, we never cease to learn about new products and their application." Office Manager Lisa Phillips adds, "more importantly, we never stop listening to what our customers require. As a team we strive to be experts in all product areas that we supply. This equips us to provide the best possible all-round service." This is further supported by Account Manager Adam Greentree, who firmly believes that "our customers are paramount to CLBS. We pride ourselves



not only in establishing & maintaining these connections, but also understanding their projects & requirements."

The CLBS product supply range includes galvanised lintels, concrete lintels, commons & face bricks, brick accessories, AFS Rediwall, Hebel, concrete blocks, landscaping solutions, premix concrete, structural steel, mesh & accessories, windows & garage doors. Lisa explains, "we could potentially be supplying our customer with various products throughout the entirety of their project. This means that after the initial quotation stage, we can manage the supply of product from the initial slab right through to the supply of landscaping product at the backend of the project. It is fulfilling for us as a team to be part of a successful build with our customer." Account Manager Clay Pellizzon adds, "our customers love the fact that we keep supply of lintels, bricks, blocks & brick accessories in our Annangrove warehouse, just in case they run short and they can duck in for a quick top up of product to keep their project moving."

For more information on the Complete Lintels Building Supplies product range, visit their website at [www.completelbs.com.au](http://www.completelbs.com.au) or call the sales team on (02) 9672 4840 Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm.



## Contact us for supply of bricks, brick accessories & lintels from leading Australian manufacturers



Complete Lintels Building Supplies is Sydney's trusted distributor of Galintels, Concrete Lintels, Bricks, Brick Accessories, AFS Rediwall, Hebel, Concrete Blocks, Retaining Wall Blocks, Premix Concrete, Structural Steel, Mesh & Accessories, Windows & Garage Doors. Complete Lintels Building Supplies is proudly & strongly associated with reputable manufacturers of Australian made building products. The importance of commitment to customer service at Complete Lintels Building Supplies is paramount. We are completely committed to safely delivering your product to site, both efficiently and in a timely manner through our own logistics team. This means we can confidently supply you with the right building product to build your dream.

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visit our website [www.completelbs.com.au](http://www.completelbs.com.au)



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# ABBTF Employs New Community & School Liaison Officers in NSW, WA and VIC

*Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation Ltd (ABBTF) remains competitive and increases productivity – reaching a 63% growth in 1st Year ABBTF supported Apprentice numbers.*

ABBTF staff members continue to work hard towards achieving our goal of fulfilling vacancies in the Bricklaying Industry. COVID-19 has been challenging for all businesses throughout Australia – however, we have promptly reacted to this by implementing several new agile strategies that have proven to be very successful. This has led to increasing our ABBTF supported numbers of 1st Year Apprentices by 63% and identifying 200+ national Apprentice job vacancies through the support of Bricklayers, TAFE/RTO, and Group Training Organisations.

We achieved this by focusing on reaching out to students while they are still in school. This is because there is greater emphasis on career decisions being made as early as Years 9 and 10. If we do not proactively connect with young students, their career path may already be set. To prioritise the engagement with career teachers and students, we re-structured our workforce to employ Community and School Liaison Officers (CSO) in NSW, WA and VIC.

The School and Community Liaison Officer contributes to the effective and efficient co-ordination of ABBTF operational outcomes, particularly in the field of Apprenticeship Attraction. Key areas of this role are to promote bricklaying as a trade to the key influencers and to generate leads.

ABBTF understands the role parents play in influencing the career pathways for their children. Parents cannot advise their children if they do not fully appreciate the options provided by Bricklaying as a trade and the Apprenticeship pathway to get into this trade.

To further reinforce this message, we introduced the "Become a Builder" sub-logo, which suggests that

Bricklaying Apprenticeships can be the start to many more lucrative employment options including owning your own business. We actively advertise the new sub-logo at all our career expo's, direct marketing into schools, and within our social media.



We doubled down on growing our digital engagement. Digital was already the preferred channel to reach our target audience within the 17 – 24-year age bracket. We also integrated the digitisation through our backend operations by the implementation of a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. Our website is fully integrated with our CRM. The CRM is now utilised for the tracking of all ABBTF activities and customer journey from leads to recruitment into an Apprenticeship, through to gaining their Certificate III Bricklaying/Blocklaying qualification. The entire claims process is also managed over the length of the Apprenticeship term via the CRM. This has provided ABBTF with a centralised and proactive management tool including enhanced and personalised candidate experiences with several touchpoints during their journey from Apprentice to qualified Bricklayer.

Government incentives have supported the growth in the Construction Industry via programs such as "Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements" and the "New Pilot Program in WA to help employers take on mature-age apprentices". They have also invested in apprenticeship growth strategies - these investments by the Government have increased employment. Spending on skills development has and will always deliver a pipeline of trained workers ready for these projects and beyond.





## COMMUNITY & SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICERS

**Nadine McEwan**  
NSW/ACT



**Dion Stewart**  
WA

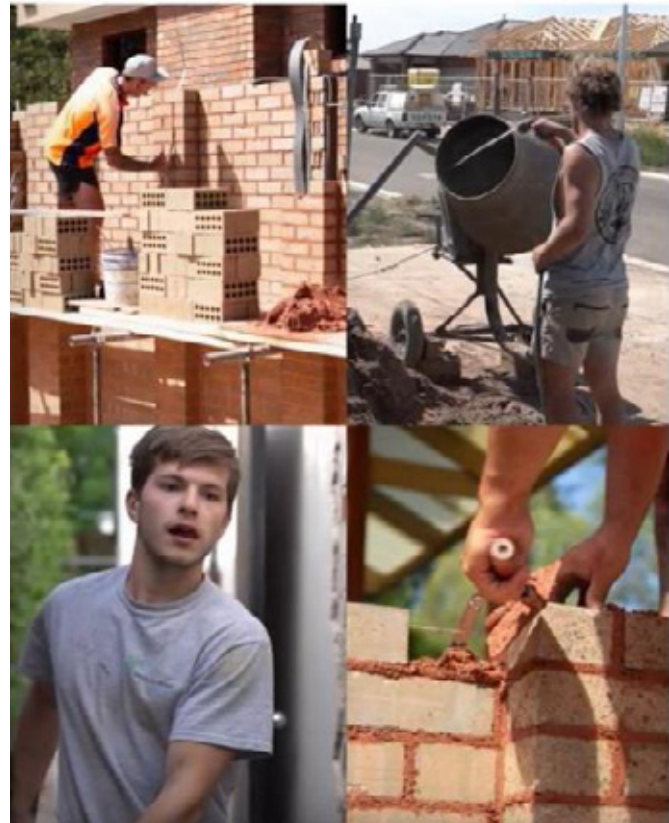


**Zoey Heather**  
VIC/TAS



Lastly, Government is pushing VET sector – Now more than ever, Vocational Education and Training (VET) is vital for Australia's economic success story. Business groups have rallied to revamp Australia's skills and training system and have called for a focus on digital technology, healthcare, and construction.

**Michael Morrissey**  
Chief Executive Officer - ABBTF



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# Cleaning & Removing Asbestos Materials after Storms & Floods

After a devastating event like a storm or flood, it is important that all guidelines around the removal of asbestos are closely adhered to, to avoid posing a health risk to homeowners, businesses and volunteers.

## Where Do You Commonly Find Asbestos?

Asbestos was once a commonly used building material, and it still exists in many buildings. Buildings built before 1990 may contain asbestos in the form of flat or corrugated sheets (fibro) used for walls, ceilings, asbestos backed vinyl floor coverings, roofing, or in products such as pipes, electrical conduit and eaves. For information on where asbestos can be found around the home, visit [www.asbestos.nsw.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.nsw.gov.au).

A site assessment to identify asbestos can be undertaken by a licensed asbestos assessor or occupational hygienist. In some cases, emergency services may undertake this role in an emergency situation.

General household debris, such as kitchen bench tops, chests, wardrobes, shelves and cabinets are unlikely to contain asbestos and can be disposed of without any concern with general rubbish.

## How Can Asbestos Affect Your Health?

Breathing in asbestos fibres can cause asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma. The risk of contracting these diseases increases with the number of fibres inhaled and the risk of lung cancer from inhaling asbestos fibres is also greater if you smoke. People who get health problems from inhaling asbestos have usually been exposed to high levels of asbestos for a long time. The symptoms of these diseases do not usually appear until about 20 to 30 years after the first exposure to asbestos.

## When Does Asbestos Pose a Risk to Health?

Asbestos fibres can pose a risk to health if airborne, as inhalation is the main way that asbestos enters the body.

Small quantities of asbestos fibres are present in the air at all times, and are being breathed by everyone without any ill effects. Most people are exposed to very small amounts of asbestos as they go about their daily lives and do not develop asbestos-related health problems.

Finding that your home or workplace is made from fibro products does not mean your health is at risk. Studies have shown that these products, if in sound condition and left undisturbed, are not a significant health risk. If the asbestos fibres remain firmly bound in cement, generally you do not need to remove the fibro.

## Planning to Remove Asbestos

The method for removing asbestos depends on the amount of asbestos materials present.

When planning to remove less than 10 square metres of asbestos materials, download the Department of Health guide called Asbestos: a guide for householders and the general public.

This document provides clear information on the equipment you need, how to prepare your work area, removing the asbestos materials and cleaning up.

SafeWork NSW always recommends that a licensed asbestos removalist is used to remove any amount of asbestos.

Removal of friable asbestos, or 10 square metres or more of non-friable asbestos materials, must be done by a licensed asbestos removalist. A licensed assessor can undertake air monitoring, clearance inspections or the issuing of clearance certificates for removal of friable asbestos.

Fire damaged asbestos materials can only be cleaned up by licensed asbestos removalists with a Class A (friable) asbestos removal licence.

## What to do When a Property is Damaged and You Suspect the Presence of Asbestos Materials



### Do not enter your property until advised it is safe

Do not enter your property until you are advised that it is safe to do so by emergency services, utilities companies or local council. Before returning to your property after a flood, consider the following hazards:

- electrical hazards
- unstable buildings and other structures
- disrupted sewerage services, which can cause health risks

### Use personal protective equipment (PPE)

Use appropriate personal protective equipment, including:

- sturdy footwear and heavy duty work gloves, to protect you from being cut by broken glass or standing on sharp objects
- protective overalls with long sleeves and trousers and, where possible, disposable coveralls (throw them out with the site waste after use)
- P2 face masks, as a minimum, to filter out fine particles including asbestos fibres. P2 masks can be purchased from a hardware store. Do not use ordinary paper dust masks, handkerchiefs or bandannas

### Things to Avoid when Dealing with Asbestos Materials

Try to avoid removing asbestos materials altogether unless absolutely necessary. It is advised to only remove asbestos materials that are already broken and dislodged.

Ensure that you do not break asbestos materials through activities such as walking on corrugated asbestos roofs, which may collapse from the weight.

Never clean asbestos roofs and other asbestos materials using high pressure water cleaners or water blaster. Also avoid the use of power tools or any abrasive materials such as sanders on asbestos materials.

When disposing of asbestos waste, do not use regular bins or place asbestos materials with items for curbside collection.

### Advice for Dealing with Asbestos Materials

Take care when cleaning the surface of asbestos materials to avoid damage and the release of asbestos fibres.

Clean walls and other surfaces containing asbestos materials using

domestic hoses or by hand.

Regularly check the surface of the material you are cleaning to ensure it is not being damaged

Always turn off all electricity before starting work where water may contact electrical installations.

Make sure asbestos materials are kept damp at all times when working with them. For this you can use a domestic hose, watering can, trigger-spray bottle or similar; don't use high pressure cleaners.

When cleaning asbestos materials, use soapy water with a cloth, sponge, or a light scrubbing device such as a soft brush or broom, or a domestic hose. Regularly check the surface of the material you are cleaning to make sure it is not being damaged. If damage is occurring, clean more gently.

When picking up pieces of asbestos material, wet the pieces with water if they're not already wet. Pick up the pieces and double wrap them with heavy duty (0.2mm) thick plastic and seal the bag opening with tape or a knot. You can purchase 0.2mm plastic in bags or rolls of sheeting at a local hardware store.

Always label the outer bag 'Caution – Asbestos Waste' so that other people know to be careful.

You can contact your local council to find out where to dispose of asbestos waste in your area or go to [epa.nsw.gov.au/managewaste/house-asbestos-land.htm](https://epa.nsw.gov.au/managewaste/house-asbestos-land.htm) to find a landfill that accepts asbestos waste.







# ASBESTOS & SILICA

## Awareness Briefing



### Background

Uncontrolled cutting, grinding or drilling of products or materials containing crystalline silica can generate hazardous levels of airborne dust. Breathing in this dust, usually over several years, leads to serious and fatal lung disease such as silicosis.

### Course Aims

Silicosis can kill, but exposure to silica dust is preventable. SafeWork NSW is spreading this message by educating workers and the public about the risks of exposure.

### Course Topics

- Eliminate or Substitute the Risk
- Isolate the Hazard
- Engineering Controls
- Administrative Controls
- Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE)

### Who Should Attend

Anyone who works with manufactured stone, concrete, bricks or rock.

### Next Courses to be held

#### MBA Offices

52 Parramatta Rd, Forest Lodge

Parking is not available at MBA Offices Sydney for the duration of the Course.

### Course Cost

Masonry Contractors Australia (MCA)

Company Rate:

Up to 10 employees - \$500 +GST

Up to 15 employees - \$750 +GST

Up to 20 employees - \$1,000 +GST

### Dates & Times

Please indicate your preference on the Registration Form.

### Registration Details

- 1 Download and complete form
- 2 Email completed form to the MBA Safety Department using the details at the bottom of the form.
- 3 A confirmation email will be sent to you with full details.

## DOWNLOAD REGISTRATION FORM HERE

### Further Information

Master Builders Association of NSW Safety Department  
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safety@mbansw.asn.au

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# STATE'S SCAFFOLDS UNDER SCRUTINY

*SafeWork inspectors will be visiting construction sites across NSW to inspect scaffold structures, issuing on-the-spot fines and stop-work notices for failure to comply with NSW's safety standards.*

**Minister for Better Regulation Kevin Anderson said there would be a zero-tolerance approach where scaffolds have missing critical parts, or where unlicensed workers have removed or altered scaffold components.**

"This is the third annual scaffold compliance program we've conducted, and we will continue to visit sites until the industry meets the safety levels SafeWork expects," Mr Anderson said.

In the last two years, SafeWork has issued more than 1,700 notices relating to scaffolds, including 600 scaffold prohibition notices requiring the activity to cease due to immediate or imminent risk.

"This Government is building a stronger and safer NSW, and that starts with protecting our workforce," Mr Anderson said.

"We need to drive the message home to principal contractors, supervisors, scaffolders, site owners and managers – we will not put up with practices that put lives at risk."

In 2021 alone, SafeWork has visited more than 60 construction sites from Tweed Heads to Ballina, issuing 96

notices including eight on the spot fines, 16 prohibition notices, and 72 improvement notices. Over the rest of 2021, SafeWork will be focusing on risks associated with formwork, concrete pumps and working at heights.

"Across the state the building and construction industry is on notice – it does not matter if you are in the centre of Sydney or in western NSW, SafeWork will be checking your scaffold and if it is not safe, we will act."

On-the-spot fines of \$3600 for businesses and \$720 for individuals can and will be issued if scaffolds are not inspected by a competent person, if workers are at serious or imminent risk of falls from heights, or if unlicensed workers erect, alter or dismantle a scaffold.

"If you see anything unsafe at work, you can now report it quickly and anonymously directly to SafeWork using our app Speak Up, Save Lives."

More information on the Scaff Safe 2021 campaign can be found on [www.safework.nsw.gov.au](http://www.safework.nsw.gov.au), along with a scaffold safety [checklist for principal contractors](#) (PDF 600kb).





# Unmasking the Impacts of COVID-19 on Workplace Mental Health

**The full extent of the toll COVID-19 has taken on workplace mental health in NSW was recently revealed with the release of the results of a landmark study into the psychological impacts of the pandemic.**

Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation Kevin Anderson and Minister for Mental Health Bronnie Taylor announced the findings of the SafeWork NSW study of more

than 4,000 employers and 8,000 employees across the State.

Among the key findings of the study were that 38% of supervisors and 27% of workers reported feeling mentally unwell in the last 12 months. Of those, 53% and 45% respectively said the negative change in their mental health was directly brought on by COVID-19.

The study also concluded that, over the past 12 months, 27% of employers felt isolated, 32% of supervisors reported being stressed or constantly under pressure and 27% of workers were being given too much work.

According to the study, although many businesses are affected by COVID-19, there has been an improvement in workplace mental health overall. Since 2017, an additional 12.5% of NSW businesses reported to have taken effective action to create mentally healthy workplaces.






Insights from this study, along with evaluation and independent expert advice, have informed a refreshed NSW Mentally Healthy Workplaces Strategy, set to be released in the coming months.

## Carwoola House

Carwoola House is located on a 13.37-hectare block in a rural bush setting where the previous dwelling had been destroyed by a bushfire in 2017. The form and materiality of the new house has been reinvented to redefine the experience and outlook of the site, while being more resilient to its environment.

The main building material is concrete brick in ivory, which creates a non-combustible building envelope and anchors into the open, rocky landscape. At the same time, the form is carefully sculpted to create spaces, voids and openings. At the north a protected external terrace is formed by a brick podium recess. At the south, the upper level opens up to capture views. The brick material is experienced externally as sculpted openings, while internally the brick is experienced as a rich texture and defining boundary to the space. Polished concrete floors and white textured finishes compliment the light, textured brick palette.

Adbri Masonry's brick range is designed to meet the demands of residential, multi-residential and commercial construction with a brick solution for every application. All products within the Adbri brick range are Australian made masonry, they're practical, durable, and built to stand the test of time.

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# SafeWork NSW Incident Response & Investigations

*Investigations by SafeWork NSW are most commonly undertaken in response to workplace incidents that result in the serious or fatal injury of workers, but may also be in response to dangerous occurrences, serious safety risks or work – related illnesses.*

Members are advised that the NSW Government has launched a new service standard for handling workplace incidents in order to improve transparency and communication with impacted parties.

Minister for Better Regulation, Kevin Anderson, said the new service standard, SafeWork NSW's Incident Response and Investigations, details a service commitment to people directly involved in a workplace incident, including the person injured, the next of kin and duty holders.

"Investigations into workplace fatalities, injuries, illnesses and other safety risks are complex, and it takes time for SafeWork NSW to determine whether the investigation will lead to a prosecution

and legal proceedings," Mr Anderson said.

"The service standard provides clarity

around the progress and status of investigations so that victims, families and colleagues aren't kept in the dark.

"This document also clearly outlines each stage of the investigation and formalises the regular, pro-active communication you can expect to receive from SafeWork."

The new customer service standard was recently discussed at a meeting of the Family and Injured Worker Support Group, a 12 member group established by the NSW Government.

The group gives injured workers and those who have lost loved ones an opportunity to help shape the NSW Government's response to workplace incidents and provide feedback about how it can enhance its support services to affected people.

"This group will determine whether the document does its job when it comes to improving how SafeWork handles workplace incidents," Mr Anderson said.

We will continue working alongside the group to make positive changes to how we operate."



**DOWNLOAD THE  
CUSTOMER SERVICE  
STANDARD**





# PRODUCT NEWS

## StoneFace by Baines Masonry

StoneFace™ is an innovative new concept in architectural masonry. This stunning stone-look solution draws inspiration from the Australian landscape and Australian heritage buildings to create a unique and eye-catching finish. A reconstituted stone face finish is attached to the masonry block during the manufacturing process, creating a clean and stable finish that lends itself to a variety of uses. This earthy and rustic look can be achieved without the cost of regular stonework thanks to the team at Baines Masonry.

StoneFace can be used for a variety of applications in residential and commercial building. Use it to create a stunning feature wall that captures attention. Use it in the construction of fencing around the home. Add it to a

retaining wall with steel and concrete reinforced cantilever Segmental, using the EarthWorks retainers. StoneFace can be used for both structural and non-structural purposes, giving you the flexibility to add stone detailing to any part of a build.

The StoneFace block is available in four finishes: BushRock, Charcoal, OpalRock and YellowRock. Each colour is inspired by natural surroundings and can be used to create a heritage-inspired look of dry stacked stone, used for stoneworks during early Australian colonisation.

The StoneFace block system comes in four sizes: full block, half block, full corner, and half corner. StoneFace is also available as a veneer face stone that can be fixed to existing structures.

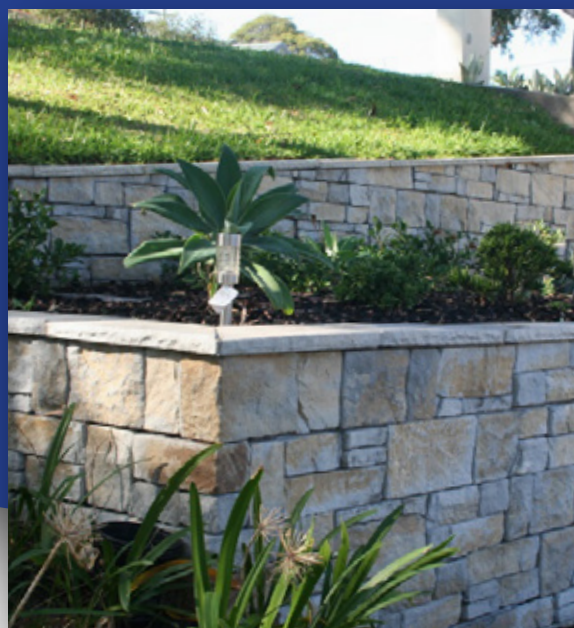
For further information, visit: [www.bainesmasonry.com.au](http://www.bainesmasonry.com.au)

## StoneFace™

*A new concept in architectural masonry*

- ✓ Drystack design
- ✓ Commercial & Domestic uses
- ✓ Easy to lay
- ✓ Easy to reinforce
- ✓ Cost effective

StoneFace is a new reconstituted stone finish retaining wall design inspired by our unique Australian landscape, both rugged and stunning, and comes in four natural colours.



### BAINES MASONRY

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### Cement Australia Trade Mortar

For the highest quality mortar, choose Cement Australia Trade Mortar. This quality assured pre-blended M4 bricklaying mortar mix conforms to Australian Standards. Made in Australia, the pre-blended mortar is strong and perfect for laying of bricks, masonry blocks, stonework and general-purpose mortar applications. With a consistent colour and strength, trade mortar covers approximately 20 house bricks or 10 masonry blocks per 20kg bag. Achieve faster project turnaround without compromising on quality. Trade Mortar guarantees quality control with no batching errors by the labourer, decreasing reliance on on-site mortar preparation and eliminating rectification costs for out-of-spec mortar. For consistent quality of cement, sand and additives, choose Trade Mortar for your next build. For more information, visit: [www.cementaustralia.com.au](http://www.cementaustralia.com.au)



### Avante

Avante from PGH Bricks and Pavers is a lightweight brick walling system. Made in Australia, this lock-in rail system gives you flexibility and versatility when working on difficult builds, giving you the freedom to tackle any height, shape and situation. The system can be used to complement traditional bricks or used on elements of the project where full bricks can't be used. Avante comprises of brick facings that are fixed mechanically to a galvanised steel rail, offering a high strength wall that is perfect for new construction and re-cladding projects across commercial, residential, and multi-residential projects. The solution is cost effective and can be used both internally and externally. It is ideal for tight situations where a brick finish is required to work in conjunction with traditional brickwork. For more information, visit: [www.pghbricks.com.au](http://www.pghbricks.com.au)



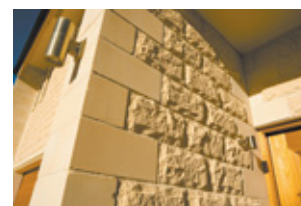
### Galintel®

Galintel® is Australia's leading designer and manufacturer of high-quality steel lintels for the building industry. Australian made, Galintel galvanised steel lintels have been serving the national construction industry for over 30 years. The brand guarantees stronger, more durable and safer lintels, with a specialised range that includes flats, angles, T-bars and Rendabar. All Galintel lintels are designed for optimum support of brickwork above clear openings. The innovative design of Galintel products enables weight savings of up to 40% while maintaining strength, structural rigidity and load bearing capacity. All products are in-house hot-dip galvanised to Australian standards to ensure that surfaces are fully protected. With this superior durability, choose Galintel for your next project. For more information, visit: [www.completelbs.com.au/galintels-complete-lintels](http://www.completelbs.com.au/galintels-complete-lintels)



### GB Sandstone Rock Face

GB Sandstone Rock Face, from Austral Masonry, are the ideal concrete masonry block for those seeking a warm, unique look for their build. With three earthy colour choices, including Brisbane Blend, Endeavour Blend and Sydney Blend, GB Sandstone Rock Face offers many features and benefits. These blocks are low maintenance, requiring little upkeep over time. Their high thermal mass slows the transfer of temperature fluctuations from the outside into internal living areas, thereby reducing the need for use of heating and cooling. Concrete masonry products are also fire resistant, weather resistance and able to ensure significant impact. This affordable and easy-to-install option is a fantastic way to make a statement in a new home. For more information, visit: [australmasonry.com.au](http://australmasonry.com.au)





### Kite Breeze from GB Masonry

GB Masonry have collaborated with one of Australia's leading designers Adam Goodrum to create Kite Breeze, a contemporary reimagining of the celebrated modernist era breeze block. Kite transforms an iconic material of the past into a new experience for today's urban landscapes. Based on Adam's design ethos and love of geometric art, the collection has a strong focus on transforming spaces through dappled light, featuring a half inset panel that delivers an array of artistic shadows, patterns and airflow, Goodrum's take on the age-old breeze block brings a fresh perspective to a trend that continues to surge in popularity. For more information visit [www.gb-masonry.com.au](http://www.gb-masonry.com.au)



### Ancon AMR Masonry Reinforcement

Ancon AMR is a fabricated stainless steel reinforcement that locates in bed joints to strengthen masonry panels without thickening the wall. It is particularly useful to provide structural integrity to stack bonded panels as required by AS 3700. The longitudinal wires are flattened to less than 3mm to ensure good mortar cover is achieved, even when the product is lapped. Ancon AMR is available in three wire diameters and three widths and supplied in a standard length of 2700mm and it suits a wide range of structural load conditions and wall widths up to 190mm. Contact Leviat's Masonry Team on 1300 340 320 or download the latest literature at [www.ancon.com.au](http://www.ancon.com.au).



### Helifix Micro-Piles

Helifix Dixie Micro-Pile circular hollow section piles provide rapid and reliable structural support to a building's foundations following subsidence and can also act as a piled foundation system for either permanent or temporary new-build construction. On a recent project in Dulwich Hill, Sydney, a garage building was suffering subsidence damage and large cracks had appeared in both the internal and external masonry. A single pile was installed to a depth of 2.1m through clay soil, and the top bracket was jacked to lift the building and close the cracks. HeliBars were installed internally to repair the cracks and the joints outside re-pointed to complete the job. The use of Helifix Micro-Piles resulted in a concealed repair with minimal disruption to the ground.



### Trade-Up

Trade-Up, from Up Family, offers a software solution for busy construction professionals. Streamline jobs, track productivity and measure success with this easy-to-use technology. Trade-Up collects and reports productivity and progress data directly from site every day. The technology is accurate and allows professionals to manage their communication, payroll, site diaries and record management in one easy place. Use Trade-Up to set job targets, allocate tools and projects, manage digital timesheets and payrolls, upload photos onto site diaries, and more. Have up-to-date progress reports at your fingertips to make informed decisions with detailed insights into profit, loss, and project progression. Find out how much money you could save with the help of Trade-Up. For more information, visit: [www.trade-up.com.au/trade-up/](http://www.trade-up.com.au/trade-up/)







### Boral Packaged Cement

Boral Cement offers a range of products in a packaged form through our trusted reseller network, including cements, dry mixes, specialty sands and gravels, and ancillary products. For the brick and block laying trades in particular Boral Cement's Blue Circle® range of cements for making mortars include Blue Circle® Builders Cement, General Purpose Cement and Off White Cement, all available in 20kg multiwalled paper sacks. Their cements are also used in a wide range of applications including mortars, renders, grouts, screeds and concreting applications. Boral Cement is a true 'local' manufacturer located in the Southern Highlands of NSW and Blue Circle® is a highly regarded product brand trusted by the trades for quality & consistency. So, Build Something Great™ with Boral Cement today! For more information visit [www.boral.com.au/cement](http://www.boral.com.au/cement)



### Roncut Brick Guillotine

The Roncut Brick Guillotine makes cutting bricks easy. This hard-wearing brick cutting tool makes a clean cut every time, with a sturdy frame and materials made to last. The Roncut Brick Guillotine is the only tool you need to cut bricks and pavers. The internals are zinc plated for long life and rust resistance, while the frame is high grade steel. Cut bricks with precision and minimal effort using the fitted stainless ruler, which ensures that your bricks are cut to the correct measurement. Roncut are the leading supplier of quality bricklaying gear in Australia. Talk to their knowledgeable team for more advice on what you need to make brick cutting and bricklaying easy. For more information, visit: [roncut.com.au](http://roncut.com.au)





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# JOIN NOW BECOME A MEMBER

The MCA Premium Program exists to help change the Masonry Industry, for the better. By following our motto, “Masonry Pride, Australia Wide”, the MCA Committee, and all its partners, are striving to achieve the same common goal – to bring masonry back to the forefront of the Australian Construction Industry.

By becoming a partner, you open up a whole world of opportunity for both yourself as an individual and your residential or commercial level company.

## HERE'S WHY YOU SHOULD BECOME A MEMBER

- ✓ You'll get access to a large online database packed full of WHS information, SDS's, and other information relevant to your time as either an employee of the Masonry trade or the operator of a Masonry company.
- ✓ You'll get access to a jobs board to put your own talent up for hire (for individuals) and scout for the best talent available (for contractors).
- ✓ You'll be advertised on our brand new “Partners” page if you're a contractor, which we've created to become the ‘Yellow Pages’ of the Masonry Industry.
- ✓ You'll be able to attend our regular meetings and network with top people within the Industry.
- ✓ Lastly, you'll be a part of a bold movement – we want to bring Masonry back to the forefront of the Construction Industry, and we want to help you achieve your business goals.

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