

JUNE 2023

NATIONAL OFFICE MONTHLY REPORT

FROM THE CEO

With parliament rising at the end of the month for a long winter recess, there has been significant political activity, although unfortunately, not all of it focused on what is happening in the Australian economy but rather a tit-for-tat session between the two sides of politics. With the potential of a recession reflected in our industry with ongoing high inflation, ongoing increases to interest rates deflating the private housing market, skill shortages, legislative uncertainty in terms of the Housing Australia Future Fund and new industrial relations laws, along with cost increases in some jurisdictions through new regulation, the national office continues to be on heightened status in our advocacy. Details of our advocacy are outlined in detail in this report, but it would be remiss of me not to mention the interesting dichotomy between the

Federal Government's appreciation of our advocacy on housing, with a number of mentions in parliament and media commentary while at the same time being excluded from confidential discussions on industrial relations due to us holding government to account on what we, and other employer groups, have called sham consultation. Master Builders Australia takes an evidence-based approach to policy advocacy and will be robust in our advocacy tactics if it is viewed that a government is not being accountable in their approach to legislative change. The decision taken by the IR Minister does not preclude us from providing material to government or standing up for our members in our IR campaign launched this month. We strongly urge all members to support the Campaign by sharing material and encouraging donations to maintain our actions.

MASTER BUILDERS AUSTRALIA

**2023
NATIONAL
BUSINESS
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**

**6 SEPTEMBER 2023 • SYDNEY
6.00-10.00PM**

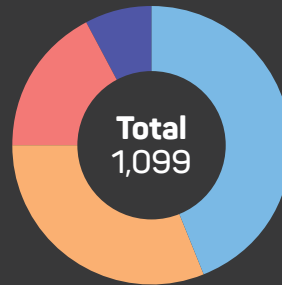


APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW

ADVOCACY

Things started to heat up in June with the launch of two industrial relations campaigns and parliamentary debate on the Housing Australia Future Fund.

We responded to around 40 media queries, issued 8 media releases and held a press conference which generated around 1,450 news items across print, online, TV and radio at a national level alone. Our potential audience reach over the period was 61.28 million.



BUSINESS UNITES TO OPPOSE SAME JOB, SAME PAY

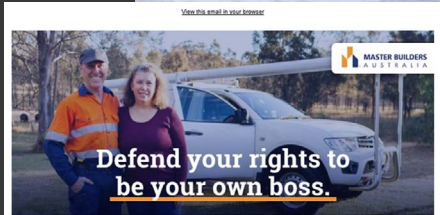
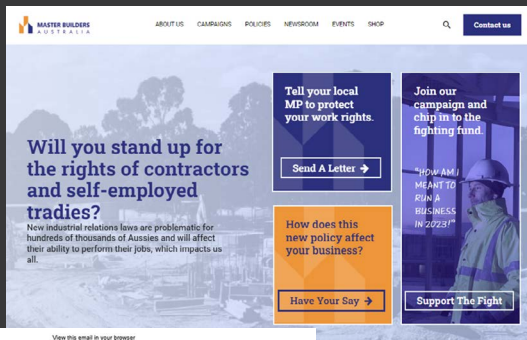
On 5 June, we partnered with a coalition of industry association peaks to launch a campaign on 'Same Job, Same Pay'. The associations involved include the Minerals Council of Australia, Business Council of Australia, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association, Council of Small Business Organisations Australia, National Farmers Federation, and Recruitment, Consulting & Staffing Association. The campaign will run over the next few weeks and be heavily saturated on TV, radio and outdoor to raise public awareness of the impact of this aspect of the industrial relations legislation. The so-called 'Same Job, Same Pay' proposals do not mean equal pay for men and women. It does not speak of fairness and justice, as its name falsely represents. It means by law, employers will have to pay workers with little knowledge or experience exactly the same as workers with decades of knowledge and experience. From an industry perspective, our messaging focuses on the impact this will have on independent contractors and subcontractors. As catchy slogans mask the true consequences, the proposed industrial relations changes threaten to strip subbies and independent contractors of their autonomy to be their own boss, negotiate higher wages and conditions, and exercise the right to choose the projects they work on, free from the influence of unions.

We joined our partners at a press conference and spent the rest of the week doing a series of interviews across TV and radio outlets. The unions and Minister Burke were quick to respond but sadly didn't address any of the concerns, instead proceeded to call our views 'loopy', 'crazy' and 'bizarre.'

DEFEND YOUR RIGHT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS

On 20 June, Master Builders launched its own campaign to defend the right of the 264,000 independent contractors and self-employed tradies to be their own boss. We also released independent research to coincide with the launch which found more than half of Australian voters agree the proposed one size fits all 'employee-like' industrial





Dear Dee Zegarac,

We are writing to bring your attention to a concerning issue that is currently affecting hardworking Australians like yourself and could have far-reaching consequences for the entire nation.

The Federal Government is proposing increasingly difficult for independent contractors to be their own boss. These proposed changes will prevent them from performing their jobs effectively, impeding fundamental principles that have long

Under these new laws, independent contractors will be subject to "employee-like" changes, undermining their autonomy and becoming employees.

"This is not for the building industry we need independent contractors if it goes ahead it will have a Magee impact for us!"

Anonymous

"This would be one of the worst decisions ever made. The entire building industry would collapse. Small business"

Brett Kerr - Affiliate Constructions

"This is a ridiculous idea No Contractors no construction"

Brett Kerr - Kerbys Carpentry 7 Constructions

"This government proposal is going towards communism"

Anonymous

relations reforms will increase costs and red tape for small businesses who use independent contractors and harm independent contractors, subbies and freelancers outside of the gig economy.

The campaign will run over the next several months and calls on the Government to drop this legislation or narrowly define the changes so our industry is not unintentionally captured.

Through the central campaign hub defendyourrights.com.au, business owners, Master Builders members and the general public can take a number of actions to express their concerns. This includes signing a petition, emailing their MP, donating to the campaign, purchasing some merchandise, or completing surveys.

In the first two weeks, our messaging has appeared over 2.5 million times on digital media, driving 16,000 website visits and around 600 petition signatures or letters to MPs. This will continue to ramp up as we gear towards the next sitting week in August and more detail is released.

Thank you to all the member associations for your help with getting the message out there through emails to your membership, sharing on social media or including it in your next magazine.

HOUSING

Debate continues around the Federal Government's proposed Housing Australia Future Fund which has been delayed until October after a motion put forward by the Greens was supported by the Coalition. We expressed our disappointment by this decision.

Before the motion was passed, the Prime Minister tried to sweeten the deal with the creation of a new \$2 billion Social Housing Accelerator which would roll out to state and territories in a matter of weeks. We welcomed this announcement and acknowledged it as a crucial step towards addressing the persistent issue of housing affordability in the country. Over the month, we have also seen various state governments make announcements that highlight the importance of tackling housing supply and affordability challenges which have been welcomed by state and federal MBAs.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS & PRODUCTIVITY

Australia's economy grew by only 0.2 per cent over the quarter heavily influenced by the strength of engineering construction which is up by 3.1 per cent. We used this opportunity to remind government of the inextricable ties between construction activity and the broader health of the economy. Looking ahead, we cannot continue to rely on the tightening of business and mortgage holders' purse strings to steer the ship. Productivity performance in construction is going backwards. There have been too many missed opportunities to unlock productivity in building and construction to support the efficient delivery of projects.

PODCAST

This month we released another podcast featuring our IR guru, Shaun Schmitke, who took listeners what we know about the next tranche of IR legislation and why we hold grave concerns on the impact they will have on the industry. You can listen to this on Spotify, ApplePodcast or via Podbean [here](#).



NATIONAL ECONOMIC DATA SNAPSHOT

NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

April 2023

2,427 non-residential building jobs valued at **\$5,137.7 million** were approved in AUS.

\$2,116,896 average value of non-residential building jobs approved.

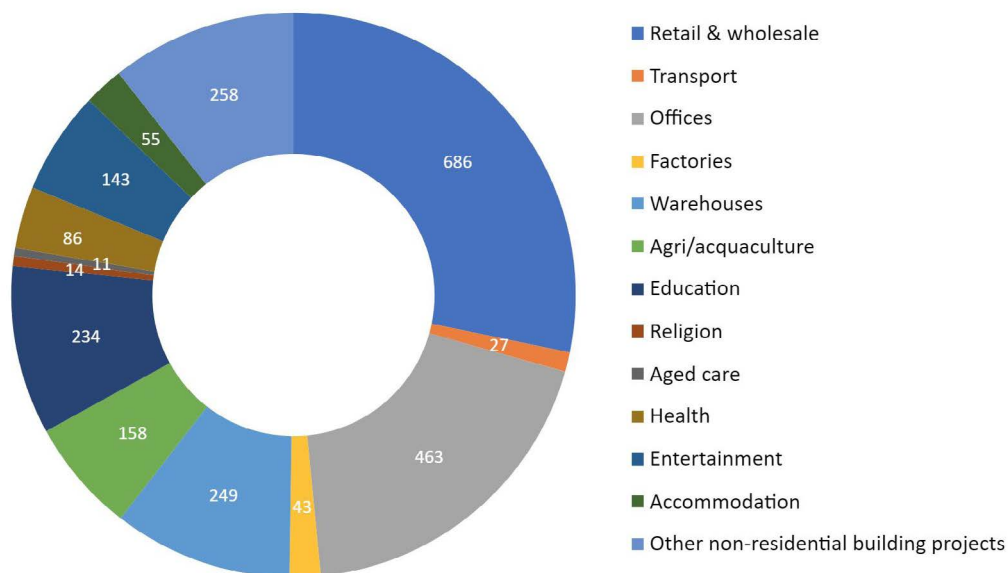
34.0% public sector share of non-residential building jobs approved.

Non-residential building jobs approved

Building Product Inflation %



+11.4%
Year to
March 2023



CIVIL CONSTRUCTION

Civil construction work March 2023 quarter (\$m)



Civil works by activity, March 2023 quarter (\$m)

| Activity | Started | Done | To be done |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Bridges, railways and harbours | \$5,954.6 | \$4,630.1 | \$21,769.7 |
| Roads, highways and subdivisions | \$8,255.3 | \$7,328.6 | \$34,876.8 |
| Water storage and supply, sewerage and drainage | \$2,970.8 | \$2,201.5 | \$8,797.7 |
| Electricity generation, transmission and distribution incl pipelines | \$7,086.4 | \$5,201.0 | \$16,188.4 |
| Telecommunications | \$1,977.1 | \$1,767.9 | \$363.0 |
| Heavy industry | \$5,185.1 | \$5,922.2 | \$33,784.9 |
| Recreation & other | \$1,999.9 | \$2,030.3 | \$2,210.2 |
| TOTAL | \$33,429.2 | \$29,081.6 | \$117,990.7 |

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

House prices: year to May 2023



Capital city



Regional markets

Unit prices: year to May 2023



Capital city



Regional markets

Rental price changes in Australia

+1.6%
During Mar
2023 quarter



+4.9%
Over year to
Mar 2023
quarter

Building approvals: April 2023



11,594

Total new home
building approvals
-24.1%
change on
Apr 2022



8,049

Detached houses
-18.2%
change on
Apr 2022



3,545

Units/apartments
-34.9%
change on
Apr 2022



\$836.8 million

Home renovations
-4.1%
change on
Apr 2022

Residential building work done over year to December 2023

COMMENCED NEW HOMES

183,388

All dwellings

119,736

Detached houses

63,652

Apartments/units

COMPLETED NEW HOMES

172,388

All dwellings

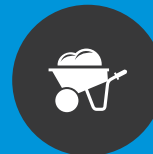
114,688

Detached houses

57,700

Apartments/units

New homes still under construction on 31 December 2022



238,475

All dwellings

105,111

Detached houses

133,364

Apartments/units

New homes approved but not yet commenced as at 31 December 2022



37,616

All dwellings

11,469

Detached houses

26,147

Apartments/units

Lending indicators: April 2023

7,922

Loans to owner occupiers for
construction of new home
-36.9% change on Apr 2022

4,747

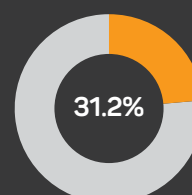
Loans to investors for construction
of new home
-12.0% change on Apr 2022

4,833

Loans to owner occupiers for
residential land purchase
-25.4% change on Apr 2022

2,714

Loans to investors for residential
land purchase
-8.2% change on Apr 2022



First Home Buyers
share of loans

LABOUR MARKET

May 2023



CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE



1,329,413
People employed in
construction in Australia

351,828 Resi/commercial
builders

142,942 Civil construction
builders

834,643 Resi/commercial
subcontractors



Of Australian
jobs are in
construction



Account for women
working in Australian
construction

CONSTRUCTION BUSINESSES

445,081

Construction Businesses
(at June 2022)

Number of workers



| | |
|---------|--------|
| 258,272 | 0 |
| 180,814 | 1-19 |
| 5,790 | 20-199 |
| 205 | +200 |

Turnover



20.5%
turnover >\$50,000

1.4%
turnover <\$10m

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES

121,490

Construction apprentices in-training
(at September 2022)



54,824 new starts
(year to Sept 2022)

23,837 completions
(year to Sept 2022)



Female share of construction
apprentice commencements
(year to Sept 2022)



6,212
apprentice carpenters
in training



3,913
apprentice plumbers
in training

PRIORITY POLICY ISSUES

| POLICY AREA | KEY ACTIONS | ISSUES PROGRESSING |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Building Regulation | <p>Standards Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demolition Standard update Pool Barriers <p>Office of the ABCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building Codes Committee Meeting Technical Reference Group Condensation Technical Reference Group Water and Weatherproofing <p>ASBEC meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MBA participated in ASBEC workstream meetings on Regulations, Codes and Standards. <p>DCCEEW consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MBA participated in federal government workshops of future work on energy performance in the built environment. <p>Minister for Housing and Small Business meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MBA CEO met with Minister Collins and discussed the need for better approaches to free standards and challenges for small businesses accessing Australian Standards. <p>BRC Interim meeting held</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An online meeting was held with the Committee to report on key issues including: the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) program of work, National Building Products Alliance, building quality reform progress reporting, Building Ministers, the ABCB work program and the face to face meeting/ Resilience Roundtable in late July. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BRC national committee face to face in Sydney 27 July. Energy Ministers Meeting 7 July. Building Ministers Meeting September 2023. Australian Building Codes Board engagement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Efficiency for commercial buildings is the focus for 2025 NCC. This will include class 3 to 9 buildings and public areas in class 2 buildings. This will focus on services, distributed energy resources and electric vehicle charging. Condensation mitigation Weather and Waterproofing is another focus. Standards Australia – The following key standards are currently under review. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bushfire Standard Tiling Standard Pool Barrier Standard Demolition Standard External above ground waterproofing (expected) Insurance Council, Planning Institute of Australia and MBA forum in Western Sydney on planning for disaster resilience. Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) meeting July, Adelaide. Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into electrification – submissions due 27 Sept. |

Contracts

Standards Australia – General Conditions of Contract Review

- The National Office again attended an all-day meeting on 7th June as a member of the technical committee tasked with the review of AS 4000.
- Regrettably, we continue to have cause to remind Standards Australia that the technical committee must not deviate from the project's narrow scope.
- Once an updated draft of the contract has been settled by the Committee, the document will be released for public consultation period in the latter part of 2023.

National Contracts Advisory Committee

- The NCAC met on 14th June via Zoom to be provided with an update on a number of issues including; contract ramifications associated with the Federal Government's proposed IR reforms, the AS 4000 Review and outcomes of the recent Building Ministers' Forum.
- The NCAC is scheduled to meet face-to-face in Canberra on Thursday 7th July. The meeting will provide the opportunity for the Committee to reacquaint itself in person and to have detailed discussions about current contractual matters.

Economy & Productivity

MBA/CPA Smart Business webinar

- The joint Master Builders Australia/ CPA Australia Business Health Webinar took place on Friday, 2nd June 2023 and was a big success. The Webinar featured speakers active in the legal, accountancy and insolvency fields and provided concrete, practical advice on how small businesses can improve their financial planning and meet any challenges head on. Over 70 people dialled in to attend the Webinar. The webinar recording is available on the MBA website.

National Housing Supply and Affordability Council meeting

- Master Builders and CBUS met with representatives from the new National Housing Supply & Affordability Council in June to discuss the main barriers impeding institutional investment in housing. The meeting heard how the combination of costs, benefits and risks of housing investment currently compares poorly with other investment classes.
- Minister for Housing and Small Business meeting
- MBA CEO met with Minister Collins and discussed implementation of the governments housing initiatives and additional advocacy with CBUS to progress debate on the Housing Australia Future Bill in Parliament.

- Parliamentary Committee Inquiry in the housing rental crisis – submissions due late July.
- A \$2 billion increase in NHFIC's financing mandate was signed into effect earlier in June. It is estimated that the increased resources will help support the delivery of 7,000 additional new social and affordable homes.
- In addition, a new \$2 billion Social Housing Accelerator has been unveiled which is in the process of being delivered to state and territory governments.
- The passage of the \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund remains blocked in the Senate. The HAFF is designed to build 30,000 new social and affordable homes in its first five years. Debate to resume in October.
- GDP growth slowed to +0.2 per cent during the March 2023 quarter, with strong engineering construction activity helping to pull it forward.
- Insolvencies in the building and construction industry hit a new record high during May with 244 businesses entering external administration. There has been a sharp rise in insolvencies right across the economy over recent months.
- The RBA increased its official cash rate by another 25 basis points in early June. At 4.10 per cent, the cash rate has been raised 12 times since the middle of last year. With inflation slowing sharply to 5.6 per cent during May, it is possible that the era of rising rates is coming to a close.

Industrial Relations

More IR changes pass the Parliament

- The [Fair Work Legislation Amendment \(Protecting Worker Entitlements\) Bill 2023](#) ('PWE Bill') passed both houses in the Federal Parliament on Thursday 22nd June 2023.
- The PWE Bill makes a number of changes to the Fair Work laws in addition to those already passed earlier this year.
- The PWE Bill contains a range of changes that will:
 - Protect migrant workers by the FW Act, even if they may be non-compliant in terms of immigration law or visa conditions;
 - Increase access to unpaid parental leave ('UPL') to align with recent changes to the Paid Parental Leave Act 2010;
 - Create an entitlement to superannuation in the National Employment Standards ('NES');
 - Clarify the operation of workplace determinations made by the Fair Work Commission and their interaction with enterprise agreements; and
 - Expand the circumstances in which employees can authorise employers to make deductions from payments due to employees, where the deductions are principally for the employee's benefit.
- The amendments mark the next tranche of the government's ambitious IR reform agenda, with more significant changes to come in the second half of 2023.
- Although described by the Government as "less controversial," most employers will be impacted by the changes and should be aware of the proposed new rules.
- The Bill has now received Royal Assent, with elements of the Bill receiving staggered implementation over the next 6 months.

MBA pushes on with its campaign in response the Government's next tranche of IR reform

- In addition to a series of consultations with DEWR, as well as other industry players, MBA has been firmly focussed on rolling out a raft of materials as part of its [Defend Your Rights](#) campaign.
- We remain extremely concerned that considered collectively, the changes represent a real and serious threat to the legitimate, lawful and long-standing use of independent contracting as a form of engagement.
- The National Office will continue to meet with Government and relevant stakeholders to advocate on behalf of our members of this important issue.

Annual Wage Review Decision handed down

- On 1 June, the FWC handed down its [Annual Wage Review](#) decision.
- The Fair Work Commission Minimum Wages Panel decided to award an increase of 5.75 per cent taking the National Minimum wage to \$882.80 per week or \$23.23 per hour.
- On the 16th June, MBA made submissions in response to a number of minor discrepancies identified in the draft determinations for the construction awards which were issued following the decision.
- Final determinations and updated awards have now been published, which will operate from 1 July 2023 and take effect in relation to a particular employee on the start of the employee's first full pay period on or after 1 July 2023.

New Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement now in effect

- Following publication of the [Statement of Principles on Genuine Agreement](#) ('SoPs') which came into effect on 6th June, the National Office attended a meeting of the FWC's Small Business Reference Group ('SBRG') to be briefed on their implementation.
- At the meeting, DPs Hampton and Masson also provided an overview on associated guidance currently being prepared by the FWC.
- Despite the government's apparent contrary intention, we hold significant concerns that the SoPs in fact create more doubt as to whether an EBA has been genuinely agreed.
- Notwithstanding, our ongoing involvement in various FWC Advisory Groups is crucial in order to minimise the impact of recent changes on our members, as far as is practicable.

ACCI Workplace Policy Committee

- With IR remaining high on the Government's agenda, the National Office again attended a meeting of ACCI's Workplace Policy Committee ('WPC') on 20th June to discuss the Government's next Tranche of IR changes.
- As noted above, the proposed legislative changes are significant and the WPC continues to be important in facilitating a co-ordinated response across the ACCI network.

National Industrial Relations Advisory Committee

- NIRAC met this month where the National Office provided a briefing and further update on MBA's national response to the Government's various IR consultations.
- The National Office has produced, or is in the process of developing, a suite of materials to assist members in the form of written guidance, fact sheets, pod casts and webinars.
- Ongoing consultation with the Committee will continue to be key in the coming months, particularly as we continue to roll out our national campaign to preserve the rights of independent contractors.

Jobs & Skills

MBA-Minister Giles dinner

- Master Builders hosted a dinner with the Immigration Minister, the Hon. Andrew Giles MP.
- The Dinner provided the national office, MBA ACT, and MBA ACT members with the opportunity to learn about the Government's migration agenda and to represent to needs of our industry directly to the Minister.
- Areas of discussion included the need to simplify the system, remove occupation lists, expand graduate visa eligibility, remove work restrictions for the partner of international students, and reform language requirements.

STEM Careers and Pathways.

- Members of the National Jobs and Skills Committee met with Science and Technology Australia (S&TA) in June to discuss STEM careers and pathways.
- S&TA is undertaking research for the Chief Scientist to improve understanding of STEM skills needs, recruitment, retention and workforce mobility and diversity.

Student access to Standards

- Members of the National Jobs and Skills Committee met with Standards Australia to discuss RTO, student and graduate access to Australian Standards.
- Standards Australia is looking at options to improve access for learners and sought information from the Committee on current access arrangements and tools, and courses which require access to Standards.
- Ideally all regulated Standards would be freely available. In absence of this, more affordable and integrated access is needed. The Committee highlighted that industry access needs are broader than the NCC pack and that costs make access prohibitive for trainers and industry participants.

- It is anticipated BSA will commence operations in August 2023.

ANZSCO Review

- The ABS is taking a staged approach to reviewing all occupation classifications.
- The current consultation round opened this month and is seeking feedback on occupations in our industry including trades, labouring, design, and engineering.
- Master Builders is liaising across industry to ensure a coordinated and informed submission is lodged that will improve classifications. This will enhance our ability to analyse labour force data and identify workforce and skills needs.

Data

- Labour Force – there are 1.33m people in Australia's construction workforce, up nearly 8,000 over the quarter and over 130,000 in the year to May 2023. 89% work in residential and commercial building and 11% in civil construction. 12.8% are female, down from 13.3% last quarter.
- Job advertisements – online job ads rose 2% in May 2023 to 290,544. In the last year online job ads have increased for plasterers (+14.5%), glaziers (+13.8%), and floor finishers (+12.5%).
- Apprentices – 121,479 apprentices in training on 30 Sept 2022 are employed in construction. Construction is the top industry for apprentice employment. 54,810 apprentices commenced in the year to 30 September 2022.

Work Health & Safety

Silica/ RIA developments

- MBA holds significant concerns around a decision of National Cabinet, that came to light this month, which could have serious implications for the regulation of respirable crystalline silica ('RCS'). We also fear the decision will further diminish industry's ability to consider significant regulatory reform more broadly.
- We have recently been advised that during the April meeting, National Cabinet agreed to "refocus" Impact Analysis requirements. This means that decisions in the Federal Relations Architecture will no longer require impact analysis to be finalised by the Office of Impact Analysis ('OIA') by default. Instead, this would only be required on request by relevant decision makers (e.g. State/Territory Ministers).
- Members may recall that on 23 March 2023, SWA made the decision to recommend to WHS Ministers a reduction of the WES for RCS from 0.05 to 0.25 mg/m³. This was despite there being ongoing measurability issues which were highlighted at length in the relevant meeting paper. OIA subsequently determined that a RIS would need to be undertaken, as the proposed change to the WES would have a significant impact on industry.
- Despite OIA's advice, SWA Members were advised that due to the decision of National Cabinet, a RIS for the proposed change to the WES for RCS was no longer required.

No progress on other Silica-related issues

- In terms of other related developments, we are still awaiting updates from the Government on further progress of the following:
 - Proposed prohibition on the use of engineered stone;
 - Changes to the Model WHS Regulations - uncontrolled processing of engineered stone; and
 - Further regulation of high-risk crystalline silica processes (option 5a).
- The National Office is in the process of clarifying a number of concerns including; whether the new requirements are retro or prospective and how this will impact other RIA processes that either already on foot, or are about to commence.
- We are extremely concerned that the decision of National Cabinet will provide SWA Members (and other government agencies) unfettered ability to make recommendations to State/Territory Ministers (either in or out of session) without the need to consult both Industry and Regulators alike as to their impact/s.
- The National Office has been heavily engaged in all aspects of SWA's silica work and will continue to do so as options for reform are considered and progressed.

MBA makes submissions on proposed WES for Diesel Particulate matter

- Members may recall that SWA is currently consulting on a proposal to introduce for the first time a workplace exposure standard ('WES') for Diesel Particulate Matter ('DPM').
- The WES that has been proposed for DPM is an 8-hour TWA of 15 µg REC/m³.
- In consultation with the NWHSC, the National Office has prepared correspondence to SWA highlighting that further research and exposure monitoring is urgently needed to understand the potential impacts of such a significant change to the WHS framework.
- We are also working with other industry stakeholders to ensure any proposal is practicable, measurable and will have the ultimate effect of improving safety outcomes.

Submissions on ASEA's expanded remit

- Members may recall that as part of the Government's recent budget announcements, \$4.2 million over 4 years from 2023–24 (and \$1.1 million per year ongoing) will be allocated to extend the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency's ('ASEA') remit to include the prevention of silicosis and other silica related occupational diseases and broaden the functions of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council.
- The National Office will engage with the Government in the coming months on the scope and application of ASEA's new silica-related responsibilities.
- Following one-on-one consultations with the Department, MBA also filed a written submission this month which provided some workable suggestions to the government for the implementation of ASEA's new scope.

SWA Members Meeting – 8 June 2023

- The National Office provided substantive feedback on a number of items discussed at this month's SWA June Members' meeting, including on:
 - SWA's review of its National Compliance and Enforcement Policy ('NCEP');
 - A potential review of the primary duty of care to work arrangements;
 - Further recommendations with respect to the regulation of EWPs;
 - Research gaps with respect to work-related diseases and exposures; and
 - Future approach to reporting of SWA's annual national statistics.
- We will continue to provide direct feedback on SWA's ever-increasing work program as it relates to the membership.

Feedback on SWA Guidance – out of session

- In addition, and as part of SWA's ongoing implementation of recommendations arising from the Model WHS laws review, SWA has produced a number of case studies to provide guidance on a PCBUs WHS duties.
- The National Office provided feedback on the next tranche of case studies, which included one for construction.

Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner

Federal Safety Commissioner Review

- Members may recall that Marie Boland has been engaged to review the functions of the Federal Safety Commissioner. As part of the Review, the National Office attended the first meeting of the Reviewer's Advisory Panel on 27th June, where we provided feedback on a draft discussion paper.
- DEWR has now released a [discussion paper](#) as part of the FSC review, with submissions sought in response by the 7th August.
- As a member of the Advisory Panel, MBA will provide ongoing feedback during the course of the Review, which will culminate in a final Report being handed to government sometime during the latter part of 2023.

OFSC Industry Reference Group

- This month the National Office also attended a meeting of the OFSC's IRG. In addition to FSC David Denney providing an overview of recent audits and the Joint Accreditation Pilot program, the meeting was largely devoted to Marie Boland who obtained direct feedback from IRG members on key elements to be considered during the Review.

ACCI WHS & WC Committee – Silica Reference Group

- The National Office attended a meeting of ACCI's Silica Reference Group on 27th June to discuss a raft of silica-related developments, including how to address SWA's advice that a RIS was no longer required for any changes to the WES for RCS.
- The Committee continues to be a valuable conduit between MBA and other industry organisation and provides a valuable opportunity to collaborate and share information and advocacy.

National Work Health and Safety Committee

- A meeting of the NWHSC was convened on 21st June so that the National Office could provide a briefing on the proposed WES for Diesel Particulate Matter and to receive an update 'round the grounds'.
- The NWHSC's ongoing support is key in ensuring the most practicable and appropriate policy settings are advocated on behalf of our members.

KEY DATES IN JULY

WED, JUNE 7 Finance Committee Meeting

WED, JULY 19 Fortnightly Executive Directors Zoom

WBA BUSINESS RESILIENCE MENTORING ON DEMAND

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

APPLY NOW!

Women Building Australia



BUSINESS RESILIENCE TRAINING

Unlock Your Business Potential
Enrol in Our Transformative
7-Part Self-Paced Course

**Breaking Barriers,
Building Success:**

Empowering women in the building industry with valuable insights and practical knowledge

REGISTER NOW!

Women Building Australia



myob



WOMEN BUILDING AUSTRALIA

We are thrilled to bring you the highlights of our activities and initiatives for the month of June 2023. At Women Building Australia (WBA), we remain steadfast in our commitment to promoting career opportunities in the construction industry and fostering an inclusive environment for women. Here are some of the exciting updates from the past month:

CAREER EXPOS

In line with our mission, we actively participated in two career expos this month, aiming to showcase the promising career prospects available to young women in the construction industry. We were present at the Western Sydney Careers Expo held at Olympic Park and the 2023 Apprenticeship/Traineeship & Jobs Expos in Sydney. Our WBA stall at these expos was joined by esteemed professionals, Natalie Khatchadourian, Construction Cadet at Intrec, and Laura Rooke, Bid Manager at Intrec. Their presence exemplified the thriving and inclusive environment for women in the construction industry. We believe that their valuable insights, as an entrant and an experienced professional, showcased the varied experiences women have in the industry, inspiring future generations and breaking gender barriers. Natalie's role as a construction cadet also made it easier for young students to relate and connect with her.

WOMEN BUILDING AUSTRALIA BUSINESS RESILIENCE TRAINING

On June 1st, we proudly launched the Women Building Australia Business Resilience Training in collaboration with MYOB. We are delighted to share that over **86** women from the industry have signed up for the course so far. This comprehensive 7-part self-paced training is designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of women in growing a business in the building and construction industry. The training modules are delivered through on-demand teaching, allowing participants to attend at their convenience and learn at their own pace. If you or someone you know is interested in this training, please visit our [website to register](#).

Our social media promotions for the Women Building Australia Business Resilience Training have yielded exceptional results. We have received over **2773** clicks onto the program through various platforms. Specifically, on Facebook and Instagram, we garnered 532,856 impressions, reaching 182,696 individuals, resulting in 2,255 clicks. Additionally, on LinkedIn, we achieved 67,621 impressions, reaching 50,716 individuals, with 518 clicks. We are thrilled by the engagement and interest generated by these promotions, indicating a strong demand for professional development opportunities among women in the industry.



Western Sydney Careers Expo, Olympic Park -, Natalie Khatchadourian, Construction Cadet at Intrec and Jennifer Lawrence, Manager Industry Policy, MBA

MENTORING ON DEMAND PROGRAM

Our Mentoring on Demand Program continues to thrive, offering a unique self-matching and on-demand mentoring experience. This program allows mentees to seek guidance for specific acute business issues they may be facing. We encourage experienced members of the construction industry, regardless of gender, to join us as mentors and support women in building robust businesses. Mentoring not only allows mentors to enrich their mentoring and leadership skill set but also provides intellectual challenges, new perspectives, opportunities to exercise emotional intelligence, and a chance to network and connect with other industry practitioners. Mentors should have at least 10 years of industry experience, either as owner/operators or in senior/management roles. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please visit our [website for more information](#) and to apply for the Mentoring on Demand program.

As we look ahead, we are preparing for a busy quarter with more expos, training programs, and initiatives aimed at empowering women in the construction industry. We remain dedicated to our mission of breaking gender barriers and forging a more inclusive future.

Be sure to follow us on our social media handles for timely updates on all WBA Activities at the below links:

 [@WomenBuildingAustralia](#)

 [@womenbuildingaustralia](#)

 [@women-building-australia](#)