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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE

## Extended Hours for NSW Building Sites Will Save Jobs: HIA

Planning & Public Spaces Minister Rob Stokes should be commended for his decision to bring in new rules to allow construction sites to operate on weekends and public holidays during the COVID-19 pandemic, said David Bare Executive Director of HIA NSW today.

“Recently HIA has put forward the proposition that building sites should be allowed to operate on weekends and public holidays during the COVID-19 outbreak. This was to support our builders and tradespeople to implement the HIA *Making Space on Site* guidelines and maintain efficiencies on site, Mr Bare said.

“We are pleased that the NSW government has taken up this recommendation as a way of supporting the building industry through this difficult time.

“We are confident that HIA members can carry out their work in a manner that protects both those on site and their clients.

“The extended hours allow the industry minimise the potential for lost productivity during the pandemic, and will in turn support the economy of NSW.”

“The construction and development sectors, make up 10 per cent of NSW’s economy, it is vital that it experiences the least disruption possible to ensure the industry and jobs can bounce back after the crisis is over and we continue to build homes for consumers.”

The Environmental Planning and Assessment (COVID-19 Development – Construction Work Days) Order 2020 now in place will continue until the COVID-19 pandemic is over, or the advice of NSW Health changes.

“The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 was amended on 24 March to enable Mr Stokes to issue orders that override normal planning controls during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Compliance with this order will be monitored by the NSW government and HIA members will comply fully with all social distancing and COVID-19 prevention measures required to ensure work keeps moving and people stay safe,” concluded Mr Bare.

### For further information please contact:

David Bare, Executive Director HIA NSW 0418 924127

