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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE

COVID-19 Impact on Building Pipeline

HIA WA Executive Director Cath Hart has warned that COVID-19 has significantly impacted WA's residential construction industry.

"Based on WA's historical data, we had a pipeline of just 13 weeks of residential projects when the economic "hibernation" began at the end of March - so we are already working through that," she said.

"Because of the downturn over the past five years, WA has a really, really short pipeline, especially compared to the east coast, where they can have a pipeline of six to nine months of work so this will impact WA's sector very differently to the east coast.

"If the trend continues and nothing else happens, by the end of June all the existing projects will be on site and there won't be any new ones in the pipeline.

"This is what keeps me up at night - the impact for all those workers, sole traders and businesses across the home building supply chain."

ABS data confirms the 13-week period between approvals and home building starts.

"Once the current batch of home building projects working through the pipeline and heads to site, we will begin to see another wave of reduced employment, this time impacting trades and suppliers as existing projects are completed," Ms Hart said.

"We've been in daily contact with State Government regarding the challenges confronting industry - they are listening and I know that they're well aware that this trend is not sustainable. I'm working with them on what can be done to avert a deeper crisis in a few months time."

For further information please contact:

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