

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## HIA welcomes changes to start times for HomeBuilder

HIA WA Executive Director Cath Hart today welcomed WA Premier Mark McGowan's announcement of a blanket extension of six months for start times under the HomeBuilder scheme which is administered by the WA Office of State Revenue.

"This is a common sense decision which cuts inefficient red tape out of the grants process and now means that builders will have six months to start work after signing a building contract for the HomeBuilder grants," Ms Hart said.

"The Premier also threw his support behind industry's calls for the HomeBuilder start times to be further extended by six months to align with the Building Bonus.

"This would mean that consumers have twelve months to start under both schemes and would reduce confusion among consumers and eliminate some of the pressure.

"HIA will continue making the case to the federal government on the need to align the start times for the schemes."

Ms Hart praised the McGowan Government for proactively working with WA's residential construction sector post-COVID.

"Following the success of WA's Building Bonus, the residential building sector in WA is now primed for a more sustainable pipeline of work in 2021 and into 2022," Ms Hart said.

"The McGowan Government has worked closely with HIA throughout 2020 to keep building sites safe and operating and to also activate the residential building sector as part of the State's post-COVID recovery.

"This included Premier Mark McGowan recently extending the start times for the Building Bonus to 12 months.

"Allowing 12 months to commence work onsite after signing a contract has been broadly applauded by industry, because it keeps our sites safer and smooths out the workflow to deliver these new homes for consumers.

"We're fortunate to have had such steady recovery here in WA post-COVID, and with the recent extension to the Building Bonus commencement timeframes, we anticipate the economic benefits will flow well into 2022, making it a great outcome for industry having already dealt with an historic low in activity.

"We once again want to thank the McGowan Government for its willingness to take on board the feedback we provided."

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