

TO BUILD OR NOT TO BUILD

The future of the Australian construction industry

A conference on the benefits of workplace reforms in the Australian construction sector hosted by the **Institute of Public Affairs**

Thursday, 6th September 2007
Melbourne

Speakers include:

John Lloyd, **Australian Building and Construction Commissioner**

Brian Welch, **Master Builders Association, Victoria**

Jim Barrett, **Australian Constructors Association**

Chris Mazzotta, **Troubleshooters Available**

John Roskam, **Institute of Public Affairs**

Jodie Patron, **Econtech**

Deidre Willmott, **Chamber of Commerce and Industry Western Australia**

John Crittall, **Master Builders Association, Queensland**

Val Gostencnick, **Corrs Chambers Westgarth**

Steven Amendola, **Blake Dawson Waldron**

Chaired by:

Ken Phillips, **Institute of Public Affairs**



TO BUILD OR NOT TO BUILD

National Conference Thursday 6 September 2007

The future of the building and construction industry in Australia

In late 2005 the long awaited national building reforms came into operation. Two years on it is necessary to consider the commercial outcomes of these important changes.

The reforms were intended to address the major inefficiencies which had led to the large cost overruns and endemic delays that have historically plagued the construction sector.

But where are we today? Are buildings, factories, roads, ports, schools and all construction projects being built faster, better and within budgets?

To Build or Not to Build will explore how significant these changes have been, and why they were necessary.

The conference will look at the impact the reforms have had between states and regions for developers, investors and consumers, and for government infrastructure budgets.

To Build or Not to Build asks where the construction industry is headed after the 2005 reforms.

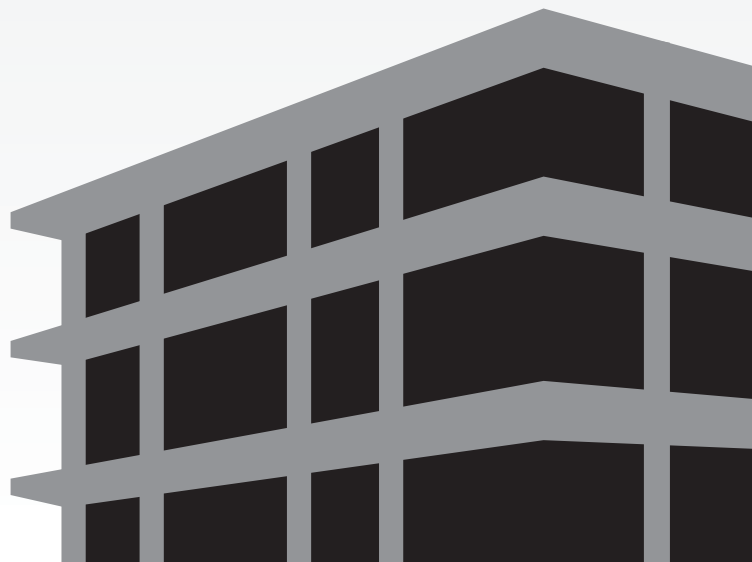
The speakers from across Australia represent the major builders, subcontractors and contractors who work in the sector, and other experts. Economic analysis will be matched against anecdotal and personal experience giving a strong current picture of the state of the construction industry after these momentous reforms.

Who should attend?

To Build or Not to Build is the conference for anyone who needs to keep up to date with construction sector developments now and into the future. Developers, investors, economic and policy analysts and forecasters, government and industry regulators and builders will benefit from the insights and perspectives of the wide variety of expert speakers, as well as the opportunity to discuss candidly the direction the sector is heading.

About the Institute of Public Affairs

The Institute of Public Affairs (IPA) is Australia's leading free market think tank. Founded in 1943, the IPA has long been at the forefront of Australian political and policy debate by advocating for free markets. The IPA's Work Reform Unit is directed by Ken Phillips.



TO BUILD OR NOT TO BUILD

Date **Thursday 6th September 2007**

Venue **Crown Entertainment Complex**
Studio 3, Level 3,
West End Complex
8 Whiteman St
Southbank, Victoria

Opening remarks

8.50 **John Roskam**
Institute of Public Affairs

The Big Picture

9.00 The impact of workplace reform
on the economy
Jodie Patron
Econtech

Small and Large

9.35 Workplace reform and the
'Big End' of town
Jim Barrett
Australian Constructors Association

10.05 What the little guys say: Work
place reform and small business
Chris Mazzotta
Troubleshooters

10.45 *Morning tea/coffee*

The States

11.10 Workplace reform for Victoria
Brian Welch
Master Builders Association
Victoria

11.35 Workplace reform for Western
Australia

Deidre Willmott
Chamber of Commerce and
Industry Western Australia

12.00 Workplace reform for
Queensland

John Crittall
Master Builders Association
Queensland

12.40 *Lunch (included)*

New rules, new issues?

1.40 Perspectives from the lawyers
Val Gostencnik
Corrs Chambers Westgarth

Steven Amendola
Blake Dawson Waldron

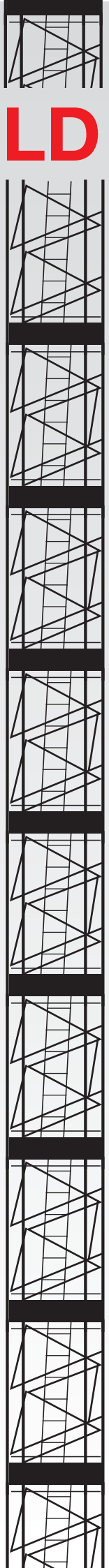
2.45 The views of the regulator

John Lloyd
Australian Building and
Construction Commissioner

3.55 *Afternoon tea/coffee*

Speakers Forum: The future

4.15 Introduced by **Ken Phillips**
Institute of Public Affairs



The speakers



John Lloyd: Commissioner, *Australian Building and Construction Commission*

Much of John's career has been as a senior public servant in the workplace relations field. Amongst his many positions over the last 10-15 years he has been Deputy Secretary, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Australian Government; CEO, Department of Productivity and Labour Relations, WA Government; Executive Director, Department of Business and Employment, Victorian Government and head of the Australian delegation, International Labour Conference, Geneva. Before his current role he was Senior Deputy President of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission from August 2004 to September 2005.

Jim Barrett: Executive Director, *Australian Constructors Association*

As Executive Director of ACA, Jim represents the interest of Australia's largest major construction contractors. The Association is the industry's advocate on a range of contemporary issues including, industrial relations policy, the commercial environment, regulatory issues and improvements to health & safety.

He has recently co-authored the Australian Construction Industry Reform Manual, published jointly by ACA and the Australian Industry Group. Jim is also a member of the Construction Safety Alliance, the Board of the Australian Construction Industry Redundancy Trust and a number of construction industry reference boards.



Brian Welch: Executive Director, *Master Builders Association of Victoria*

Brian Welch has been MBAV Executive Director since 1994. Prior to joining Master Builders, Brian held the position of Executive Director of the Building Owners & Managers Association now known as the Property Council of Australia. Before BOMA, Brian was General Manager at the Housing Industry Association, commencing with the HIA as Marketing Manager in 1984. Up until that he had predominantly been in sales/marketing roles and he spent some time as an Export Manager in the Middle East, living in Saudi Arabia for 12 months.

Brian is a member of the Building Advisory Council, Redundancy Payment Central Fund Limited (Incolink) and the Building Industry Consultative Council

Deidre Willmott: Executive Director Policy, *Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia*

Deidre coordinates CCIWAs policy development and advocacy efforts on behalf of its 5,000 members, large and small, representing all industry sectors and regions of the State.

Deidre studied law at the University of Western Australia and later completed a Masters of Law at the University of Melbourne. She worked as a commercial lawyer in Perth and London before joining the Ministry of Premier & Cabinet as General Counsel in 1994. In 1999 Deidre was appointed Chief of Staff to then Premier Richard Court. In 2001, she moved to Melbourne where she worked as General Manager, Executive Services at the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.



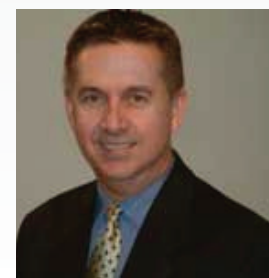
John Crittall: Director Construction, *Masters Builders Queensland*

John's role is the development of key policies in relation to OH&S, industrial relations, legal and contractual issues and environment policy for the construction industry.

Prior to this role he was a special advisor to the Minister for Industrial Relations with special involvement in work safety laws. John was also to Chair the Queensland Building and Construction Industry Taskforce which analysed key health and safety reforms in the industry. He has lectured in Universities in health and safety law and policy, industrial relations and human resource management and has a theoretical and practical understanding of the issues confronting the building industry.

Ken Phillips: Director, Work Reform Unit, *Institute of Public Affairs*

Ken specializes in labour issues and is widely recognized in particular, as an authority on independent contractor issues concerning definitions, tax, occupational health and safety, discrimination and equal opportunity and management. He consults to the private and government sectors looking at reform systems with emphasis on management structures and approaches.





Chris Mazzotta: Managing Director, *Troubleshooters Available*

Chris is a director of Troubleshooters and has been associated with the business since 1983. Troubleshooters Available is a company that provides construction personnel to the building industry and has been in operation for over 30 years.

Troubleshooters Available has long been at the forefront of the support and the use of the contracting system much to the dislike of the union. They have used it effectively to provide the industry with the flexible, performance based workforce that can be used to manage the peaks and troughs that are inevitably experienced. As a long time player in the industry, Chris and the Troubleshooters team have witnessed the best and the worst of the industry.

Val Gostencnik Partner: *Corrs Chambers Westgarth Lawyers*

Val is a Partner at Corrs Chambers Westgarth and leads its Workplace Relations Group in Melbourne. Val has over 24 years of experience in industrial relations. He acts for Government and private sector clients in the full range of industrial relations and employment law areas.

Before joining Corrs in 2000, Val was a Partner with labour law firm, Ryan Carlisle Thomas and Head of their Industrial and Employment Law Unit where he acted for many of Australia's largest trade unions. Most recently he worked as Head of Legal and Employee Relations with a major national Construction and Civil Engineering Company. Val's construction industry clients include Baulderstone Hornibrook, Multiplex, Downer, Transfield Services and ProBuild. Val also advises the National Electrical and Communications Association.



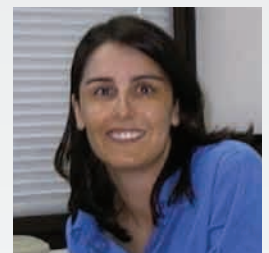
Steven Amendola: Partner, *Blake Dawson Waldron Lawyers*

Steven is a partner in the industrial relations and employment law group of BDW. He is widely recognised as one of Australia's leading practitioners in industrial relations and litigation. He acts for both Commonwealth government and private sector clients, and has been involved in a number of high profile issues including the national waterfront dispute and the state wage cases. He has a significant number of major clients in the construction sector and vast experience with industrial relations issues and disputes in construction.

Jodie Patron: Senior Economist, *Econtech*

Jodie co-authored Econtech's economic analysis of construction industry productivity due for release in August 2007.

Jodie has been with Econtech for ten years. She manages consulting projects in the areas of tax and industry policy. Her tax experience includes modeling the effects of the New Tax System for many individual businesses and government agencies. Her industry experience includes Econtech's 2002 analysis of productivity gains from workplace reform in the construction industry.



John Roskam: Executive Director, *Institute of Public Affairs*

John Roskam is the Executive Director of the Institute of Public Affairs.

Before joining the IPA, he was the Executive Director of The Menzies Research Centre in Canberra. He has also held positions as Chief of Staff to Dr David Kemp, the Federal Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, as Senior Advisor to Don Hayward, Victorian Minister for Education in the first Kennett Government, and as Manager of Government and Corporate Affairs for Rio Tinto. His policy analysis includes reports such as 'Australia's Education Choices' (with Professor Brian Caldwell) and 'The Protocol: Managing Relations with NGOs' (with Gary Johns).