

NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FORUM MEETING

8 November 2023

Communiqué

Members of the National Construction Industry Forum (Forum) met for the first time on Friday, 20 October 2023.

The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, was unavailable to chair the meeting and nominated the Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science, to chair the meeting in his place.

As it was the inaugural meeting, the agenda focussed on governance arrangements and settling how members will work together, as well as identifying priority areas for initial focus of the Forum's work.

Members valued the tripartite spirit of the meeting, which brought together key representatives of Government, business and workers, and had a productive discussion on a range of issues and priorities facing the building and construction industry.

Governance and Forward Work Plan

Members endorsed [Terms of Reference](#) for the Forum.

Members identified issues to be included in the draft Forward Work Plan, which is to be circulated and finalised out of session.

Members agreed to establish subcommittees on priority work issues to inform the advice the Forum will provide to Government. Subcommittees will support the Forum to engage broadly with the industry and build on the relationships, expertise, and work of relevant bodies. Members will endeavor to have the subcommittees meet this year noting the importance of the topics raised at the Forum.

Gender Equity

Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO, Chair of the Construction Industry Culture Taskforce (the Taskforce) and her colleague, Ms Diana Burgess, provided a presentation on their work on gender equity and women's participation in the construction industry, as part of the Taskforce's Culture Standard.

Members discussed action the Forum could take to advise Government about solutions to improve gender equity in the industry, including the recruitment and retention of women workers. Members acknowledged the project touches on a range of issues and agreed to establish a subcommittee to progress this work.

Financial viability (Security of Payment)

Members acknowledged the financial challenges within the building and construction industry, including concerns about security of payment, productivity, supply chains and sovereign manufacturing capability. Members noted that financial viability is one of the most important issues currently facing the industry.

Members shared their views on how the Forum should approach these issues going forward and agreed to establish a subcommittee to progress this work.

Attendees

In person and via videoconference

The Chair, the Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science

The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

The Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Small Business

Ms Melissa Adler, Housing Industry Association

Ms Irma Beganovic, National Electrical and Communications Association

Ms Deborah Coakley, Dexus Funds Management and the Property Council of Australia

Mr Brent Crockford, Australian Owned Contractors

Mr Jon Davies, Australian Constructors Association

Ms Alison Mirams, Roberts Co

Ms Naomi Brooks, Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union

Mr Tony Callinan, Australian Workers' Union

Mr Steve Murphy, Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union

Ms Stacey Schinnerl, Australian Workers' Union

Mr Michael Wright, Electrical Trades Union

Mr Zach Smith, Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union

Other participants

Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO, Construction Industry Culture Taskforce (Invited Participant)

Ms Diana Burgess, Construction Industry Culture Taskforce (Invited Participant)

Ms Natalie James, Secretary, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (Observer)

Mr Jim Betts, Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (Observer)

Ms Julia Pickworth, Deputy Secretary, Industry and Commercialisation Group, Department of Industry, Science and Resources (Observer)

Apology

The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

More information on the Forum is available at: <https://www.dewr.gov.au/australian-building-and-construction-industry/national-construction-industry-forum>.

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