



MBA HUNTER NEWS

Regional Industry Lunch

Hunter Regional Plan forecasts a strong future for the building industry



Leeanne Farmer, Business Development Manager for Master Builders Insurance Services at the Beach Hotel Function Room

Over sixty members of Master Builders attended a two-course lunch at the Beach Hotel, Merewether on Friday 12th May.

Guests received an update on the Hunter Regional Plan in relation to the construction industry, and took the opportunity to network with fellow business owners.

The Hon. Scot MacDonald MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, Central Coast and Hunter noted the strong construction growth within the region.

All sectors of the building industry appear to have good prospects due

to the changing diversity of the Hunter economy, and the demand for new dwellings and job creation close to major population centres is rising.

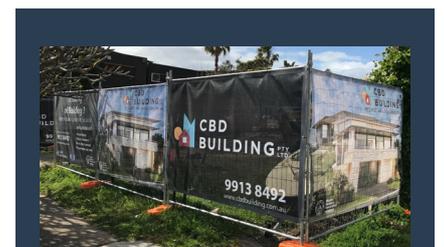
Brian Seidler, Executive Director of the Master Builders Association NSW, stressed the need for greater apprentice employment and retention within the industry. He spoke on a new training and employment pathway that would allow apprentices an easier transition into further qualifications.

With a smoother path from a trade to a university degree, the industry is opening itself to a wider range of candidates and school graduates.

In addition to our guest speakers, Suzanne McCouaig from Cbus Super spoke on superannuation changes, and Leeanne Farmer from MBA Insurance Services gave an overview of recent changes to the Home Building Compensation Fund.

We thank both organisations for their sponsorship of the event, and members appreciated the specialist advice provided on two very relevant business topics.

Please call the Newcastle office on 02 4953 9400 if you have any enquiries on either of these particular issues.



IS YOUR FENCE MESH LOOKING A LITTLE TIRED?

Members receive special pricing on all promotional site material including single mesh panels, rolls of up to 50 metres and corflute site signs.

The very latest high speed printers now allow shorter delivery times and superior colour.

Call 1300 780 095 for more information

UPCOMING TRAINING

Remove Non-Friable Asbestos

8 August
MBA Newcastle Office
12 CPD Points

Certificate IV in Building

August - November
MBA Newcastle Office

Call 02 4953 9400 for more information or to register

MBA State of Origin Dinner

Great night for relaxation and networking



Members enjoying the game on the two large screens in the MBA member room after a delicious meal

Our celebration of the first State of Origin fixture saw a record turn-out of 70 guests – the largest gathering we’ve had to date, in the five years the event has been held.

Welcoming President of Master Builders Manly Division, John O’Neill, and his staff, everyone enjoyed the high standard of football that brought the Blues’ to victory. We are hopeful the State of Origin series does not need a deciding third game, but look forward to hosting another evening if Queensland turn the tables on the 21st.

It was very satisfying to see members come together to enjoy such a well-organized event, and a credit to the staff of Master Builders and Group Training for their efforts.

So far this year we have celebrated the Socceroos’ win over the UAE in the World Cup qualifier and the NSW State of Origin win at our member functions.

Be sure to save the date on Thursday 23 November, 5.30 to 7.30 pm, to attend the President’s Shout in the MBA Members’ Room.



MEMBER ONLY CAR & TRUCK OFFERS

Master Builders Financial Services offers members great deals on new vehicle purchases, plus special rates for vehicle leasing.

For more information on how to save money on your next car, contact Ogarit on **1300 760 366** or visit mbansw.asn.au/financial-services

NEWCASTLE BUILDING AWARDS GALA NIGHT

With continued growth in entries and guests, the awards night will now be held at the recently renovated NEX function facility on the corner of King and Union Streets, Newcastle.

Accommodating up to 600 guests, the modern facilities will provide extra space and comfort, with superior service still supplied by the Wests Group.

The region’s best projects will advance to the National Master Builders Awards.

Don’t miss out on this great night out. Come along on Friday 25th August and celebrate with your peers all that is great in the Newcastle building industry.

Putting our energy into BASIX

Revised BASIX energy targets for new homes will deliver benefits to the NSW community of over \$2.6 billion every year for the next 30 years.

The Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) sets specific targets for energy and water reduction in new homes, based on how many people will live in the home, where it is located and its size.

From 1 July 2017, BASIX energy targets will be increased to ensure they are consistent with national standards, fair for all and flexible to a changing climate.

Energy targets will typically increase by 10 per cent for houses and low-rise units, and by 5 per cent for mid and high-rises units. Thermal comfort heating and cooling caps will also increase equivalent to around six stars under the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS).

These changes will bring an additional 83 gigawatt hours of energy savings toward the State's 16,000 GWh energy savings target by 2020.

A test webpage is now available online to provide an opportunity for users to familiarise themselves with the new assessment tool prior to its official launch in July 2017. This trial version can be accessed at beta.dev.basix.nsw.gov.au/basixcms/

AT A GLANCE: CHANGES TO BASIX POLICY SETTINGS

Energy

- Updated heating and cooling defaults where no active systems are selected.
- Updated small-scale technology certificate (STC) methodology for solar hot water and heat pump systems

Thermal Comfort

- Removal of the 'Rapid' assessment method
- New DIY assessment tool aligned to new heating and cooling caps and with improved window selections
- Improved window section with up to 40 windows based on the 88 'NatHERS default' types
- Provide clearer conditions on limitations for use as a 'deemed-to-satisfy' method aimed at common forms of class 1 building
- Improved pass/fail feedback

Water

- Water targets are not changing at this time.

KEY DATES

1 April – 30 June 2017:

Certificates issued during this time can be lodged with consent authorities (Council or PCA) after 1 July, provided the certificate is no older than three months from date of issue.

1 July 2017:

The new energy target and thermal comfort caps 'go-live' for:

- Projects starting from 1 July 2017 onwards
- Projects in progress with no existing Certificate
- Certificates issued before 1 April 2017 not already lodged with the consent authority.



A SPECIAL ENERGY OFFER FOR MASTER BUILDERS ASSOCIATION NSW MEMBERS

SIGN UP ONLINE IN MINUTES
buyinggroup.originenergy.com.au/MBA

SAVE THE DATE

27 Jun

Hunter Division Night
Easts Bowling Club
5.30pm - 8.00pm
2 CPD points

9 Aug

Maitland Industry Workshop
Maitland City Bowling Club
5.00pm - 8.30pm
3 CPD Points

Newcastle Excellence in Building Awards

25 Aug from 6.30pm
The NEX

12 Sep

Hunter Division Night
MBA Newcastle Office
5.30pm - 8.00pm
2 CPD points

13 Oct

SafeWork Breakfast Seminar
MBA Newcastle Office
7.00am - 9.00am

Transitioning into Retirement with Cbus

As a Cbus Super member, you can ease your way into retirement by reducing your work hours and using your super to maintain your income.



With a transition to retirement (TTR) strategy you can access your super through a super income stream while you're still working.

A TTR strategy can be difficult to understand and set up which is why you should call Cbus for help before deciding to use one.

TURNING YOUR SUPER INTO A REGULAR INCOME

A super income stream (also known as a super pension) takes your super lump sum and provides you with a regular payment, like an income. There are tax benefits of a super income stream including:

- From 1 July 2017, investment earnings are taxed at a maximum of 15% in a TTR account*
- Payments from the super income stream are tax free if you are over 60 years and if you are under age 60 years you will receive a 15% tax offset on the taxable portion.

HOW DOES A TRANSITION TO RETIREMENT STRATEGY WORK?

There are two ways to use a TTR strategy:

1. Reduce your working hours, but keep your income the same

As you're working less, you're paid less by your employer. To make up the difference you need for your lifestyle you take income payments from your super.

If you are under age 60 the taxable in-

come payments are taxed at your marginal tax rate less a 15% tax offset and if you are age 60 or over they are tax free.

2. Keep working the same hours, boost your super and pay less tax
 - a. Contribute to super by salary sacrificing

You keep working full-time and salary sacrifice super up to the contribution cap. From 1 July 2017, the contribution cap is \$25,000 for all individuals (no age restriction). Pre 1 July, this was \$35,000 for those over age 50. This amount is taxed at 15% which benefits you if 15% is less than your marginal tax rate.

- b. Income payments from your super income stream

If you are under age 60 the taxable income payments are taxed at your marginal tax rate less a 15% tax offset and if you are age 60 or over they are tax free.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a TTR, you need to be between preservation age and 65 years.

If you were born:	Your preservation age is:
Before 1 July 1960	55
1 July 1960 to 30 June 1961	56
1 July 1961 to 30 June 1962	57
1 July 1962 to 30 June 1963	58
1 July 1963 to 30 June 1964	59
1 July 1964 or after	60

TTR RULES

It's important that you know the key rules that apply for TTR are:

- You need to have reached preservation age and be less than 65 years (after age 65 a TTR super income stream changes to a Fully Retired super income stream)
- Drawdown is between 4% and 10% of your account balance each year
- Payments can be stopped and you can transfer your balance to your super account
- Lump sum withdrawals are generally not allowed (unless you meet another condition of release).

WE CAN HELP YOU WORK OUT IF A TTR STRATEGY IS RIGHT FOR YOU

You've worked hard and want to get the most benefit out of your super, so it's a great idea to get some financial advice.

1. A good place to start is to speak to a qualified adviser over the phone.

The Cbus Advice Team can give members advice on a number of super related topics including TTR strategies, over the phone. This service is a part of your Cbus membership.

2. If you need more detailed personal financial advice, we can refer you to an accredited Certified Financial Planner (CFP®).

The CFP meets strict professional qualification and service criteria set by Cbus and the Financial Planning Association (FPA) of Australia. The financial planner can offer you advice on a fee-for-service basis. Your first fact finding meeting is at no cost and any fees for advice will be agreed with you in advance.

CBUS IS HERE TO HELP

Call the Service Centre on **1300 361 784** (press 4 for advice) Monday – Friday, 8am – 8pm (AEST/AEDT).

*Pre 1 July 2017, investment earnings are tax free once you are fully retired. However, come 1 July 2017, there will be an introduction of a transfer balance cap of \$1.6m to income streams. Once eligible, TTR account holders will be automatically transferred to the Fully Retired (Income Stream) option which means that the account cap will be effective. The rest of the account balance can either be a lump sum payment or the member can continue to leave it in an accumulation account.

This information is about Cbus. It doesn't take into account your specific needs, so you should look at your own financial position, objectives and requirements before making any financial decisions. Read the relevant Cbus Product Disclosure Statement to decide whether Cbus is right for you. Contact **1300 361 784** or visit www.cbussuper.com.au for a copy.

Cbus' Trustee: United Super Pty Ltd ABN 46 006 261 623 AFSL 233792 Cbus ABN 75 493 363 262.