

20 January 2004



MASTER BUILDERS
ASSOCIATION OF
VICTORIA

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ABN 38 004 255 654

Stephanie Chenoweth
Acting Director – Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
PO Box 1199
DICKSON ACT 2602

FILE No:

DOC:

MARS/PRISM:

Dear Ms Chenoweth

In response to your letters dated December 5 and 10 respectively, we wish to advise that the Master Builders Association of Victoria supports the ACCC's determination to provide an exemption allowing for the collection of a training levy for the brick and block laying industry. Furthermore, MBAV is supportive that the levy rate of \$1 per thousand bricks be increased to \$2 per thousand bricks.

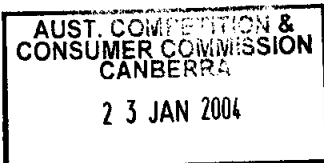
As you may be aware, the undersigned is a board member of the Victorian Blocklaying Training Foundation (VBBTF), representing MBAV in that forum. Through this participation, MBAV is well aware of the development of the Fund and the formation of its business plans and activities, aimed at increasing the number of bricklayers to meet market demands.

It is our understanding that Master Builders Australia Inc, our national body, will shortly be responding to your query, undoubtedly at greater length but with no less enthusiasm for the continuation of the levy upon bricks and blocks for the purposes of retaining existing bricklayers and increasing the number of new entrants to the industry. The contribution of an equal rate per thousand bricks by manufacturers demonstrates their commitment to the programme.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully

Brian Welch
Executive Director



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