

NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FORUM MEETING

22 September 2025

Communiqué

The National Construction Industry Forum (NCIF) has today unanimously endorsed the *Blueprint for the Future*, a significant milestone in the reform of Australia's building and construction industry.

The Blueprint signals a united commitment by business, unions and government to promote best practice, address challenges, and drive cultural change across the industry.

NCIF Chair, the Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, applauded members for forging consensus on a reform agenda that sets the industry on a path toward lasting, tangible change. This unprecedented unity and resolve in the sector is evidenced by the 'Blueprint for the Future', unanimously endorsed by the NCIF today. The Blueprint acknowledges the collective responsibility of the construction industry to work together to build consensus and deliver change for a stronger industry over the longer term.

The Hon Clare O'Neil MP, Minister for Housing, the Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training, and a representative of the Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, echoed the Chair's sentiment, noting the Blueprint's alignment with broader reform efforts, including the Economic Reform Roundtable, the National Housing Accord, the National Construction Strategy (for transport infrastructure), the Strategic Review of the Australian Apprenticeship Incentive System, Building Women's Careers Program, and the Jobs and Skills Councils Program.

The meeting affirmed the NCIF's role as the leading national tripartite forum for promoting best practice and improving the culture across the construction industry — a sector critical to Australia's economy and prosperity. The construction industry provides jobs for millions of Australians across the country, delivers the homes we live in, the schools our children attend, the hospitals that care for us, and the roads and railways that connect us.

NCIF members acknowledged recent allegations of serious unlawful behaviour within the industry, noting that these reports underscore the urgency of meaningful reform and the importance of the Blueprint in helping to foster a culture of lawfulness, constructive engagement and respect from all participants in the industry.

Blueprint for the Future

The Blueprint is more than a plan — it's a commitment to a better way of doing things. The Blueprint is critical to making the construction industry productive, safe and fair for the future.

Meaningful and permanent cultural change must be driven and owned by industry participants.

The Blueprint identifies 4 key elements – **culture, safety, productivity and sustainability** – that underpin a thriving construction industry. It identifies a range of challenges in areas including governance, lawfulness and compliance; skills, workforce and participation; and financial viability, and outlines 44 recommendations aimed at addressing these challenges and building a construction industry that works for everyone.

The recommendations represent advice to government. The Blueprint is a living document that will evolve with the industry's needs and be reviewed regularly.

Joint Construction Industry Charter

Members agreed that it was important to commence work on the development of a **Joint Construction Industry Charter (Recommendation 2.1 of the Blueprint)** as soon as possible.

The Charter represents an industry-first attempt to work together to codify shared goals and expectations for all construction industry participants. Members discussed the key elements the Charter could cover, including behavioural expectations, fairness and safety, rules of engagement, dispute resolution processes, bargaining, and productivity.

The NCIF will utilise facilitated workshops to shape the Charter, and will explore opportunities for broader industry engagement and collaboration as part of this process.

Next steps

Immediately following the meeting, members took part in a workshop to start work on **the forward workplan for the Blueprint**. The forward workplan will set out timeframes and key phases for developing the NCIF's advice to government, focusing on the 9 priority recommendations agreed at the 27 June NCIF meeting. The forward workplan will complement efforts already underway across governments and industry. Members expect to publish the forward workplan **before the end of 2025**. Members agreed that the NCIF will commence facilitated workshops **by no later than November 2025** to start to shape the **Joint Construction Industry Charter**, and will explore opportunities for broader industry engagement and collaboration as part of that process.

Members acknowledged the **critical role played by the states and territories** in delivering infrastructure and construction projects and regulating the building and construction industry, and agreed that ongoing engagement with states and territories is an essential part of the forward workplan for the Blueprint. In recognition of this, the Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, confirmed that she has placed the Blueprint on the agenda for the next meeting of WHS and Workplace Relations Ministers **in October 2025**.

To **support the ongoing work of the NCIF**, the Australian Government is committing an additional \$2.1 million over 4 years from 2025-26 and \$0.6 million per year ongoing to support the implementation of priorities under the Blueprint and strengthen the NCIF's role as a collaborative tripartite body. The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations will also establish a new team that will work across government and industry to support these outcomes.

Attendees

The Chair, the Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
The Hon Clare O'Neil MP, Minister for Housing
The Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training
Mr Tony Callinan, Australian Workers' Union
Mr Jon Davies, Australian Constructors Association
Ms Robyn Fortescue, Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union
Ms Jocelyn Martin, Housing Industry Association
Ms Alison Mirams, Independent (formerly of Roberts Co)
Mr Steve Murphy, Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union
Mr Nicholas Proud, Civil Contractors Federation Australia
Ms Denita Wawn, Master Builders Australia
Ms Lucy Weber, CFMEU
Mr Ashlee Berry, Property Council of Australia (Substitute for Mr Mike Zorbas)
Mr Christopher Donovan, Australian Workers' Union (Substitute for Mr Paul Farrow)
Mr Kent Johns, National Electrical and Communications Association (Substitute for Mr Oliver Judd)

Other participants

Mr Mark Irving KC, Administrator, CFMEU
Mr Michael Flinn, Chief of Staff, Administrator, CFMEU
Ms Jessica Hall, Deputy Secretary, Infrastructure Group, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Apologies

The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
Mr Brent Crockford, Australian Owned Contractors
Mr Paul Farrow, Australian Workers' Union
Mr Oliver Judd, National Electrical and Communications Association
Ms Kristen Reid, Plumbing and Pipe Trades Employees Union
Mr Zach Smith, CFMEU
Mr Michael Wright, Electrical Trades Union
Mr Mike Zorbas, Property Council of Australia

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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