



Spiking fuel prices cause ‘Triple Threat’ for builders

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Builders are under pressure from the ‘Triple Threat’ caused by spiking fuel prices.

Mathew Pollock, Executive Director of Master Builders NSW said builders are increasing feeling pressure from fuel price rises from a triple pain point perspective:

1. The cost of keeping diesel fuelled commercial vehicles and equipment operating and getting to site.
2. Rising transport costs causing cost rises from getting products and services to sites.
3. Building products cost increases and supply chain uncertainty.

“So we strongly back the Minn’s Government’s move to step up monitoring and coordination across the fuel supply chain in response to spiking costs and localised shortages,” Matthew Pollock said.

“The Premier’s announcement of a Liquid Fuel Emergency Operations Centre to monitor fuel availability and shortages and to work with industry to coordinate fuel availability will some comfort to builders that the government has its eye on what could be a worsening situation,” he said.

“The Premier has recognised the importance of the construction sector in announcing that the new fuel monitoring centre will identify supply chain pressure points and supply needs for our industry,” Matthew Pollock said.

“Construction is an essential industry which is vital to keeping the economy going strong. We can’t afford to have the \$100 billion in construction activity that’s under way in NSW grind to a halt due to fuel shortages,” he said.

“Pain points are already emerging. Building firms are the canary down the coalmine of inflationary pressures like fuel price spikes. Builders are hit by input cost increases earlier and feel the effects for longer than most other industries,” Matthew Pollock said.

“Right now, suppliers are putting fuel levies on the back of quotes to transport materials to and from sites. Examples include heavy materials, skip bins and demolition, they all come and go on the back of a diesel truck,” he said.

“A shortage of diesel is a big risk for the industry. It’s hard to point to a building material or a construction site that isn’t somehow exposed to diesel prices. If we start to see prolonged diesel shortages then we will be looking for the Minns Government to intervene,” Matthew Pollock said.

“The Minns Government will want to avoid delays in the construction of essential community infrastructure projects including the more than 100 healthcare and medical facilities being built in cities, towns and regional centres across NSW.” Matthew Pollock said.

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