

15th June 2020
NEW RELEASE

OPEN LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Re: HomeBuilder Stimulus Package (*excluding pools & spas*)

Dear Prime Minister:

As the swimming pool and spa industry peak industry body, SPASA Australia has written to you, your Government and the Treasurer outlining the importance of including swimming pools and spas in the Building & Renovation Stimulus Package.

Your governments position to exclude swimming pools and spas from the HomeBuilder Renovation Stimulus is misguided and done without any consultation with our industry.

Had you taken the opportunity to properly consult with our industry or responded to our communications, you would have understood that:

- the swimming pool and spa industry directly employs more than 42,000 people
- the swimming pool and spa industry indirectly employs more than 100,000 tradespeople
- the swimming pool and spa industry directly contributes more than 1.3billion dollars to Australia's GDP

The swimming pool and spa industry can only assume that your government has excluded swimming pools and spas from the renovation stimulus package due to the "*optics*" of how taxpayer dollars are spent. In this case swimming pools and spas.

It should be noted that whilst you exclude swimming pools and spas from the HomeBuilder Renovation Stimulus package, homeowners can apply to build/renovate:

- TV Theatre Rooms
- Games Rooms
- Sauna Rooms
- Gymnasiums
- Bars

It would appear, that as long as the renovation work is done inside the four walls of a home, then "*optics*" are not a concern as renovation work is done "*out of sight and out of mind*".

Prime Minister, your government is allowing tradespeople who work in the swimming pool and spa industry to *suffer* whilst other mainstream tradespeople who get access to HomeBuilder for renovation work will *prosper*.

The segregation, classification, and exclusion of tradespeople within the same construction industry is a flawed philosophy and makes for bad policy.

On behalf of our industry, SPASA Australia implores you to review the HomeBuilder Stimulus Package to allow for swimming pools and spas to be eligible and be included as part of the larger renovation work limit.

The swimming pool and spa industry looks to your Government to help us save jobs.

Prime Minister, timing is critical and your support for the swimming pool and spa industry has never been more important.

Yours sincerely

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