



Masters employs its 6,000th employee at new Hoxton Park store

Strictly embargoed until Friday, 6 June 2014: Masters, Australia's fastest growing hardware store, has employed its 6,000th employee at the new Hoxton Park store, officially opening on Friday, 6 June 2014.

New South Wales Premier, Mike Baird, will join Director of Masters, Melinda Smith, to welcome the 6,000th employee and officially open Masters' 48th store at Hoxton Park in Sydney's west.

"I am thrilled as the Director of Masters and the company's first employee to be able to welcome our 6,000th staff member to the Masters family," said Director of Masters, Melinda Smith.

"Since opening our first store in Braybrook Victoria we have opened 48 stores across Australia in just under three years. This represents an investment of more than \$1.5 billion and the creation of 6,000 ongoing jobs," she said.

The new Hoxton Park store has created more than 130 new local job opportunities, and brings our total New South Wales store network to 10 stores, with a further six stores to open over the next 18 months creating more than 3,000 retail and construction jobs.

Construction is currently underway on our new Masters stores at Northmead, Rouse Hill and Lismore.

NSW Premier and Minister for Western Sydney Mike Baird said, "I'm delighted to welcome Masters' latest investment in Western Sydney and the hundreds of new jobs created through construction and ongoing jobs at this new store at Hoxton Park, particularly for young people.

"Employers like Masters are vital in helping the NSW Government realise its goal to provide more jobs close to where people live.

"Masters' significant investment plans for the future show a strong vote of confidence in the NSW economy."

Masters employs more than 1,800 employees under 25 years of age and more than 10 per cent (696) of its employees are 55 and over.

The new Hoxton Park store is 13,500 square metres and will offer customers an unmatched range of more than 35,000 products at Australia's best prices.

As well as an unparalleled variety of home and hardware products Masters Hoxton Park will offer a variety of big brand appliances, kitchens, a huge choice of paint, an impressive garden range and much more.

An extensive drive-through trade area will cater to the needs of tradies, offering outstanding value, service and quality. Trade customers will find everything they need from the world's best trade suppliers.

Home delivery on a vast range of products is available to Masters customers online at www.masters.com.au. The click and collect service means customer can order online and pick up from the Brighton store.

Masters Home Improvement is a joint venture between Woolworths Limited and US Home Improvement retailer Lowes. We offer customers the experience of an Australian retailer with the knowledge of one of the biggest names in American home improvement.



Media Call

What: Opening of Masters Hoxton Park and ceremony to mark the hiring of our 6,000th employee

Who:

- Melinda Smith, Director of Masters
- The Hon. Mike Baird MP, Premier of New South Wales

When: 9.00am, Friday 6 June 2014

Where: Cowpasture Road, Cecil Park

Access: On-site parking, access from Cowpasture Road (off M7), Hoxton Park

For further information please contact the **Woolworths Limited Press Office** on 02 8885 1033.