

More women nailing it

RENATO CASTELLO

INCREASING female participation in the construction sector and making businesses digitally savvy are key priorities for new Construction Industry Training Board boss Marie Paterson.

Ms Paterson, who left the Civil Contractors Federation two months ago to take up the helm of the CITB, said she would be seeking to raise the profile of the organisation, which celebrates its 25th anniversary next year.

"I've come into the role to really look at how CITB is going to move forward in the future and really engage with business in the sector," she said.

"I think we're going to see quite a bit of change in terms of the digital disruption.

"In traditional trades, there has been no real significant impact and we need to be quite responsive to that so we can make sure the industry is getting support in those areas.

"We've seen in the civil sector the use of GPS, using lasers and BIM (building information modelling) in construction, so it is happening. It's just making sure people keep up with the skills or develop the skills that they need."

The CITB collects a levy of 0.25 per cent of the value of building and construction work in SA to provide access to



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PRIORITIES: Marie Paterson is the new CEO of the Construction Industry Training Board.

Picture: TOM HUNTLEY

subsidised training for apprentices, their employers and workers, plus promote and support careers and innovation in the industry. From July 1, the value of projects subject to the levy increased from \$15,000 to \$40,000, with about 4000 projects annually expected to be spared the levy.

Ms Paterson, who was most recently operations and finance director at the CCFA, is the second female chief executive of the board after Lynley Cooper, who was CITB's first chief executive.

"I sort of went 'darn, I wish I was the first'," she said.

She said it was a "major

challenge" bringing more women into the construction industry.

"I think, in the civil sector, it's around 3 per cent (of the population) in the true blue-collar space," she said.

"It's a really high focus for us, we've got an engagement strategy we're working on currently,

we're looking at some work interstate and overseas that can help engage women to feel supported and able to take on those career paths in construction.

"It's a lot about the cultural issues that go beyond industry, it's more about how women see themselves in society and their roles."

New port needed for Iluka

ILUKA has advised that the export of heavy mineral concentrate from the port of Thevenard in far west South Australia has been suspended.

"Iluka ships HMC from the Jacinth-Ambrosia mine to its mineral separation plants in Narngulu, Western Australia and Hamilton, Victoria through the port, the company told the ASX."

"Flinders Ports (owner of the port) has informed Iluka that it has a safety concern surrounding the structural integrity of sections of the jetty that support a conveyor system utilised by the operator of the port (Viterria) for loading.

"It is not clear when loading activities at the Port will be resumed.

"Iluka is currently investigating alternative avenues of transport for the Jacinth-Ambrosia HMC, through one of the other ports in the region.

"The disruption is unlikely to have an impact on production guidance for 2017. Further, given Iluka's sufficient inventory of zircon (as finished product), no impact on sales volumes for 2017 is expected."

Iluka's Jacinth-Ambrosia mine is 270km from the port.

Mining started at the project in 2009 and was recently restarted.