

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## **ACT Planning Reform Should be Built on a Foundation of Long-Term Infrastructure Planning**

Recent calls by politicians for various infrastructure proposals underscore the need for future ACT planning to be based on a long-term infrastructure plan, which is funded, and agreed on by both levels of Government.

Master Builders ACT CEO Michael Hopkins said, “The MBA is calling for the ACT Territory Plan to be supported by a long-term infrastructure plan for the Canberra region which illustrates what physical and social infrastructure will be provided to support the growth contained in the draft Territory Plan and District Strategies.”

“Recent population projections show the ACT is growing faster than initially anticipated with our population growing by 21,000 additional people over the past five years, which means 100,000 new dwellings are needed 13 years sooner than first expected. This underscores the need for better long-term infrastructure planning to support this level of growth,” Mr Hopkins explained.

Mr Hopkins said, “So far this year various politicians have called for a wide range of infrastructure to be built. This includes upgrades to the Sydney rail line, light rail to Woden, new football stadium, new convention centre, swimming pools and ice-rinks. While all these proposals have merit, if the region is to secure its share of Federal infrastructure funding, a coherent, integrated, and long-term infrastructure plan is urgently needed to be the basis of investment and planning decisions.”

“If the ACT community is to understand the long-term growth proposed in the draft Territory Plan and District Strategies, then the ACT Government should explain what infrastructure will be provided, and by when, to support this growth,” Mr Hopkins continued.

Mr Hopkins concluded, “Importantly, infrastructure should not be seen as just roads and bridges but should include various social infrastructure that will be needed, including housing and community and recreational facilities.”

**ENDS**