

MEDIA RELEASE



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ACT Labor Conference 2023 Backs Master Builders ACT Advocacy Priorities

The weekend's ACT Labor Conference saw several motions supporting advocacy priorities of Master Builders ACT on topics of infrastructure, housing and building quality.

Master Builders ACT CEO Michael Hopkins said, "The MBA welcomes support for trade contractor licensing and housing affordability at the ACT Labor Conference, and the major announcement from the Prime Minister of a National Capital Investment Framework."

"With the ACT forecast to grow by ten thousand people per year it is vitally important that the Federal and ACT Government collaborate to modernise our housing policies and plan critical infrastructure to support the growth of our city and region", he said.

Mr Hopkins said, "The MBA has been calling for a long-term infrastructure plan for many years and we welcome comments by the Prime Minister committing to a new infrastructure investment partnership with the ACT Government."

Debate on Day 1 of the Conference about the importance of planning reform to address housing affordability was also welcome.

Mr Hopkins said, "The ACT Planning reform project provides an ideal opportunity to reform the RZ1 zone to allow more diverse housing, affordable housing and missing middle housing throughout the city."

"Addressing the crippling impacts of third party appeals for residential projects in residential zones must be part of these reforms if we are going to meet the future housing needs of the Canberra community", he said.

Mr Hopkins said, "The MBA is also pleased to see Labor's Conference recognising the importance of introducing trade contractor licensing to address building quality issues."

"If Canberra's future urban form is going to rely on urban infill then we must also implement building reforms which ensure future buildings are designed and built to a high standard. A building regulatory system which holds all building practitioners to account must be a key part of these reforms", Mr Hopkins explained.

"The MBA urges the ACT Government to be bold in its housing policy and release the final Territory Plan without delay so that the local building industry can transition to the new planning framework over the coming months", Mr Hopkins concluded.

ENDS

Authorised by Michael Hopkins on behalf of Master Builders Association of the ACT.

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