

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## **New Era Heralded for Planning in the ACT**

Today the ACT Government has released the long-awaited new Territory Plan, nine district strategies and the new design guides, signalling a new era for planning in the ACT.

Master Builders ACT CEO Michael Hopkins said, “The release of the new ACT planning system signals a new era for planning in the ACT.

The MBA has long called for planning reform to help address the Territory’s chronic lack of affordable and appropriate housing, and the reforms contained in the new Territory Plan go some way to addressing these needs.

The modest housing reforms contained in the new Territory Plan will allow increased housing choice in our established suburbs following several years of consultation with industry and community.”

Mr Hopkins said, “The outcomes-based approach, combined with the District Strategies, Design Guidelines and Technical Specifications provide a more contemporary way of encouraging design innovation, providing flexibility and maintaining the character and streetscape that is valued by Canberrans.”

Mr Hopkins said, “Industry expects there to be some teething problems in the early days as industry, community and Government adapt to the new outcomes-based approach; however, implementation can be assisted by offering industry and community training and ensuring Government responds quickly to feedback in the early stages of the Plans operation.”

“With the ACT planning system project now nearing completion, it is important Government align other policies including infrastructure planning, taxation and proposed developer regulation to its planning and housing objectives so that investment is attracted into Canberra to create more housing, expand our economy and build the infrastructure necessary to support our growing city”, Mr Hopkins concluded.

**ENDS**

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

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