

MEDIA RELEASE



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Land Release Funding Boost Needs to be Matched by Support for Local Building Businesses

The ACT Government has committed an additional \$50 million in funding for the Suburban Land Agency to increase land supply.

Master Builders ACT CEO Michael Hopkins said, “The ACT Government’s commitment of \$50 million to increase land supply has the potential to support local jobs in both the civil construction and house building sectors but will amount to nothing if the Government continues to impose poor regulation on the industry charged with building our share of 1.2 million homes over the next five years.

If this extra funding is to result in increased housing supply, then the Government must start supporting local builders and engaging with industry to understand the real blockages in the planning, design and approval systems which are being felt by local builders and tradies on a daily basis.

In 2023 the ACT Government introduced around 125 new pieces of legislation or rules which impact the building industry – at an average of one new regulation every three days.

The Government will add an additional burden and more uncertainty for the industry later this year if it passes the Property Developers Bill without significant amendments.

The MBA’s warnings about the impact of poor regulation on the housing sector has been proved right with recent ABS figures showing the cost of house construction in the ACT increased 13.3% throughout 2023, more than three times the national average increase of 4.1%.

Construction timeframes for new townhouses in the ACT had increased by 79% in the past three years compared to a national average of 17% increase.

The ACT can’t regulate its way out of this housing crisis. Genuine engagement, consultation and support for small local businesses would be a step in the right direction.

The MBA aims to raise these concerns directly with the ACT Committee Inquiring into Small Business in the ACT.”

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

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