

Master Builders ACT: less talk, more action needed to boost ACT housing supply

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Master Builders ACT welcomes the statement from Minister for Planning, Chris Steel, about planning priorities to support the building of new homes. However, more action is urgently needed to deliver the middle housing that is currently missing for Canberrans.

The Minister's Planning Statement repeats what was already recommended in September's Committee Inquiry into the Territory Plan, and the points made by industry and housing stakeholders in the development of the new Territory Plan for many years.

Master Builders ACT CEO Michael Hopkins says:

'The time for action to boost housing supply is now. While we welcome the Minister's commitment to drafting a missing middle design guide, much more action is needed to urgently address Canberra's housing needs and remove current roadblocks.'

The new Territory Plan and Committee Inquiry gave the ACT Government the opportunity to change planning rules which would allow more appropriate housing to be delivered in Canberra. All governments must urgently act on the planning blockages, workforce challenges, and over-regulation which is holding back development.

'Having to wait 18 months to two years for a new design guideline, and then longer again for zoning changes, means Canberrans will have to wait too long for appropriately designed middle housing,' says Mr. Hopkins.

'Without immediate action, more Canberrans will be forced into inappropriate housing choices, or forced to look for housing across the NSW border.'

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