

MEDIA RELEASE

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Master Builders ACT: missing piece of housing puzzle welcomed

Master Builders ACT has welcomed news today of the ACT Government's proposed major reforms to the Territory Plan, and an accompanying new design guide, aimed at enabling more low-rise 'missing middle' homes in Canberra's existing suburbs.

The proposed reforms will permit low-rise multi-occupancy homes (two, three or more homes on a block), townhouses, terrace homes and low-rise apartments in existing RZ1 and RZ2 zoned residential areas.

Anna Neelagama, Master Builders ACT CEO said 'This is great news for our industry, for our members and for our capital. Medium and higher density housing is a key part of the puzzle to boosting the pipeline of construction and ultimately, providing more homes for Canberrans.'

Ms. Neelagama said the reforms have potential to drastically increase housing supply, and if implemented well could fast-track approvals for new mid-density homes and set the ACT on a clearer path to meeting National Housing Accord targets.

'We saw less than 2,300 new homes approved in the ACT over the year to February 2025. If approvals remained as weak over a five-year period, we could potentially fall short of the Housing Accord target by 11,200 homes. Introducing more middle housing and fast-tracking approvals could significantly improve this outlook.'

'Master Builders has long been calling for RZ1 areas in the ACT to be rezoned to RZ2 to allow for more medium-density housing, with fewer restrictions on the number of homes that can be built on a block.'

'While it's important to note that there will be a lengthy consultation process and the actual reforms will be at least 18 months to two years away, this is an essential step in the right direction.'

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