

MASTER BUILDERS ACT MEDIA RELEASE

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ACT Budget 2025-26: more tools needed in the toolbox

Master Builders ACT congratulates Treasurer Chris Steel on his first budget as Treasurer, and has welcomed investment in construction skills, housing and infrastructure, but remains concerned about increased revenue measures.

Anna Neelagama, Master Builders ACT CEO, said 'We applaud the measures put in place to help us achieve 30,000 new homes by 2030, including a boost to construction apprentice subsidies and one-off payments, a commitment to delivering productivity reform and commitments with the infrastructure program.'

'Despite these promising measures, there has been a commitment to fiscal repair, which means even more government fees and charges for building and construction at a time it is needed the least: rates, building levy increases, pay roll tax, registration and other associated fees and charges such as waste and traffic management.'

'There is also strong reliance on planned machinery of government changes delivering out to 2030, and this capability is a major assumption within Budget 2025-26.'

'Budget 2025-26 is big on ambition, with a proposed turnaround of nearly 130% over four years. This is a recovery from a projected year end deficit of \$1,113.8 billion to a projected surplus of \$330.6 million by FY 2028-29. This is a bold forecast.'

Master Builders emphasises that few of these measures deal with the boots on the ground reality for builders, civil contractors, subcontractors and suppliers, who continue to face high material costs, regulation, red tape, and a sluggish approval system that continues to work against the sector.

'While we welcome what we've got, more can be done to allow the building and construction industry in the ACT to both recover and thrive. More tools in the toolbox are needed, and we will continue to work closely with the Barr-Steele ACT Government to achieve this.'

The Master Builders ACT Budget Submission 2025-26 can be viewed [here](#).

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Authorised by Anna Neelagama on behalf of Master Builders Association of the ACT.

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