

MASTER BUILDERS ACT MEDIA RELEASE

23 JUNE 2025

Budget 2025-26: productivity and skills boost welcomed

Master Builders ACT has welcomed new housing measures announced today, 23 June 2025, ahead of the ACT Budget.

Master Builders ACT Chief Executive Officer, Anna Neelagama has said the emphasis on productivity will be required to reach 30,000 additional homes by 2030.

‘Building and construction activity is down, and the primary driver of this is the stranglehold that red tape and regulation have had here in the ACT.’

Quotes attributable to Anna Neelagama, CEO, Master Builders ACT

Construction Productivity Agenda

‘We welcome new funding commitments to support the Construction Productivity Agenda for the ACT.’

‘Our industry is carrying the weight of outdated planning systems, mounting red tape, chronic skills shortages, and growing regulatory burdens.’

‘Let’s be clear: it’s not government that builds homes and infrastructure, it’s private enterprise. We’re ready to do the heavy lifting—we just need government to clear the way.’

An increase in training subsidies to 90% for carpenters, plumbers, tilers, bricklaying and other critical construction trades

‘We applaud the bringing forward of this Election commitment to commence on 1 July 2025.’

‘All 26 construction trades are in dire shortage in the ACT, with new construction apprenticeships starts down -17.4% year on year which is -10% worse than the national average.’

Housing Supply and Land Release Program

'This has not traditionally been a reliable indicator of land released to market.'

'Caution should be taken in interpreting these numbers which rely on the missing middle reform in particular to come to fruition.'

'The ambitious targets are welcome, but will need to be matched with reform in order to achieve the land availability and affordability required to build 30,000 new homes by 2030.'

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The Master Builders ACT Budget 2025 Submission 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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