

# MASTER BUILDERS ACT MEDIA RELEASE

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## ACT lags behind National Housing Accord targets

**The latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics reveals a concerning trend for the ACT, as new dwelling commencements continue to lag significantly behind national targets set by the National Housing Accord.**

Current forecasts indicate that the ACT is on track to fall short by 11,200 homes, with only 427 new dwellings commenced in the March 2025 quarter, representing a staggering 67% decrease compared to last year.

Nationally, building activity has shown a strong rebound, but the ACT is bucking this trend. Detached house commencements saw a decline of 30.7% on the same quarter last year, while medium to high-density projects decreased by an alarming 74.4% compared to the same quarter last year. Additionally, new dwelling completions are down by 33.1%.

Anna Neelagama, CEO of Master Builders ACT, said 'the current economic landscape, with low consumer confidence, delays in planning approvals, and extended build times, has created a challenging environment for construction. This is all compounded by a need for major investment in skills and training.'

'While Master Builders ACT recognises the recent commitments from the ACT government in this area, more action is needed if we're to get back on track.'

'Our industry continues to carry the weight of outdated planning systems, mounting red tape, chronic skills shortages, and growing regulatory burdens, all of which stifle building productivity and affect project completion. Without significant reform, we will continue to fall behind.'

'With the ambitious targets of the National Housing Accord, a united effort from government and industry is crucial to not only meet the current housing demand but to also set us on a path for a sustainable future for the ACT.'

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