

MASTER BUILDERS ACT MEDIA RELEASE

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Latest Forecasts Sound Alarm on Housing Target

Canberra, ACT – Tuesday 2 September 2025

Latest building and construction forecasts from Master Builders Australia (2 September 2025) suggest there's a growing danger the ACT will fall far short of its target under the National Housing Accord.

"Today's report estimates that new home building starts plummeted by 50.8 per cent during 2024-25, with just 2,218 homes being commenced across the territory.

"Under the National Housing Accord, the ACT building industry needs to come up with 21,000 new homes over the five years to June 2025 – equivalent to 4,200 per year.

"Our performance during the Accord's first year was alarming: we look to have underbuilt by 2,000 homes during 2024-25 alone.

Today's Master Builders Australia report predicts that new home building will recover steadily in the ACT over the next few years.

"However, we predict that the ACT will rack up a deficit of over 3,800 homes relative to target over the Accord's entire 5-year term. This would represent a shortfall of over 18 per cent compared with our target.

"The dismal productivity performance of our industry over the past decade means that new homes are much more expensive to build. Worst of all is the fact that poor productivity means that many projects never end up going ahead because the lack financial viable.

"The home building projects that do proceed take much longer to build than they used to.

Ms. Neelagama said that ACT construction productivity will need to be increased in order for this target to be met and exceeded.

"Improvements to productivity can be achieved in a number of ways. These include a review of planning approval times, industrial relations reform, tree and traffic reform and ensuring that higher densification and missing middle are streamlined will all be critical factors in achieving this," concluded Anna Neelagama.

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