

MASTER BUILDERS ACT MEDIA RELEASE

Master Builders ACT: Missing Middle will only be found with broader reform

Canberra, ACT | Tuesday 28 October 2025

Master Builders ACT has expressed strong support for the ACT Government's Missing Middle housing reforms as a vital step towards boosting Canberra's housing supply, but warns that without tackling cost, additional policy reform, red tape, workforce and infrastructure constraints, the Missing Middle will remain missing.

Anna Neelagama, CEO of Master Builders ACT, stated: "These Missing Middle reforms are crucial for Canberra's development and our commitments under the National Housing Accord. We have long advocated for solutions that increase housing availability. These reforms represent an important move in the right direction. However, we must also ensure that our local building industry is supported to deliver on these changes."

Recent data reveals that the ACT is lagging behind on its Housing Accord targets, highlighting an urgent need for reform with an additional 4,700 homes needed to be built each year.

Master Builders ACT is urging the Legislative Assembly to expedite the approval process for the Missing Middle reforms to help the ACT catch up on its housing targets.

"While we welcome the potential positive impacts, we remain concerned about the implications of the excessive Lease Variation Charges, new regulations imposed on property developers and unsolved problems in heritage and tree approvals management," said Ms. Neelagama.

"If we don't address these challenges, it will limit homeowners' ability to build additional homes on their blocks, thereby hindering overall housing supply."

"We call on all parties in the Legislative Assembly to support the Missing Middle reforms and be ambitious in tackling intersecting problems that are barriers to housing supply."

Master Builders ACT also continues to emphasise the importance of investing in apprenticeships and training programs for local builders.

"To fully realise the benefits of the Missing Middle housing reforms, we need to prioritise the development of a skilled workforce capable of delivering these homes. It's only through serious ACT government investment in apprentices and training that we can ensure our construction industry remains robust and equipped to meet future demands," said Ms. Neelagama.

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