

## MEDIA RELEASE

# ACT falls further short of Accord targets

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Canberra, ACT | Thursday, 12 February 2026**

**Latest data on building approvals and starts shows the ACT is slipping further away from its National Housing Accord target of 21,030 homes by June 2029, with both approvals and new build starts still falling significantly short.**

To stay on track to target, the ACT needs to deliver 4,206 homes per year, or just over 350 per month. But new data published by Master Builders Australia has revealed the number of new homes approved from July 2024 to December 2025 was 5,157, more than 1,100 short of target. New home starts fell similarly short, with 3,988 from July 2024 to December 2025 against a target of 5,258.

To catch up, the approval rate needs to increase by 31.9%, while the rate of new home starts needs to increase by 42.4%.

Anna Neelagama, CEO of Master Builders ACT, said 'It's starting to feel like a race we can't win. While the building and construction industry stands ready to deliver, we need to look seriously at how we can fast-track reforms that cut red tape and boost housing supply. We also need to place on hold any non-essential new regulatory reform.

'Our industry continues to carry the weight of outdated planning systems, mounting red tape, chronic skills shortages, and growing regulatory burdens.

'Longer term, we need to be investing in the future of our industry. The theme for National Apprenticeship Week is "Getting it Done". This is a timely reminder that to get done the work of delivering housing for Canberra's future, there needs to be a radical boost to skills investment. That means more direct support to get more people into construction trades and grow the industry.'

*Together, we build better.* 



**END**

**Media enquiries:**

Tara Nichols | Communications & Marketing Manager  
[tnichols@mba.org.au](mailto:tnichols@mba.org.au) | 0430 026 612

*Together, we build better.* 