

MEDIA RELEASE

Builders respond to 2025-26 ACT Budget Review

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Master Builders ACT is pleased to see additional investment in local housing and infrastructure, but remains concerned about high levels of property sector taxation in the 2025-26 ACT Budget Review.

'The ACT Government's 2025-26 Budget Review shows some welcome investment in our local housing and infrastructure sectors, but needs more to ensure that our building and construction sector can deliver on the Government's ambitious aims,' said Anna Neelagama, CEO of Master Builders ACT.

'The ACT Government's own figures show that dwelling investment is growing more slowly than anticipated, demonstrating that the building and construction sector needs help to deliver the Government's own priority of 30,000 homes by 2030.'

Property taxation in the ACT remains above 50%. This is higher than the national average of property-related taxes as a share of total taxation revenue which sits at 40%.

'Reducing the Lease Variation Charge (LVC) for Community Housing Providers is a welcome first step, and we would encourage the ACT Government to go further by providing LVC reductions for small- to medium-sized housing developments to facilitate more "Missing Middle" housing,' said Ms Neelagama.

Additional funding for infrastructure projects, particularly for ACT schools, should also be structured to ensure a pipeline of work for the local building and construction sector.

'Our community facilities such as schools and police stations should be delivered by local builders, and we look forward to robust procurement processes that promote local jobs and skills', said Ms Neelagama.

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'We are a little disappointed that there is not more investment in encouraging a skilled construction workforce. Significant challenges remain for the building and construction sector, especially in skills shortages, and we look forward to continuing to work with the ACT Government on achieving its ambitious housing and infrastructure program.'

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