

## MEDIA RELEASE

# Master Builders ACT Submission on ACT Budget calls for industry to get building

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Master Builders ACT has submitted a response to the ACT Government's budget for 2026-27, calling for urgent structural reform to ensure delivery of up to 30,000 homes by 2030 under the National Housing Accord.**

Master Builders ACT CEO, Ms Anna Neelagama, said that industry conditions for the ACT building and construction industry are now worse than those during the COVID-19 pandemic.

'Rigid progress payment models, low deposit caps for construction projects, and overly complex regulation have created more hurdles to builders and workers at the frontline of housing delivery. If left unaddressed, these issues will continue to impact our ability to meet the urgent housing needs of our community.'

'2024 saw the lowest number of building approvals for detached homes in the ACT in 55 years, while approvals for multi-residential dwellings hit a low not seen since 2009. Although there was a slight uptick in 2025, this increase is insufficient to set the ACT on track to meet its ambitious housing targets.'

'We are at the pointy end of the wedge when it comes to getting homes built for Canberrans. Our Budget Submission clearly sets out the key hurdles that must be removed if we are serious about delivering housing supply for the ACT.'

Ms Neelagama said that property-related taxation is another key factor.

‘Property-related taxes now account for 55% of ACT taxation revenue, the highest share of any jurisdiction, adding affordability pressure and constraining new supply,’ said Ms Neelagama.

To address these issues, Master Builders ACT has put forward 11 key recommendations in its budget submission:

1. Review the ACT’s tax settings to boost construction activity
2. Streamline planning approvals and allocate appropriate resources to meet statutory timelines
3. Accelerate the supply of new land by the Suburban Land Agency
4. Pause the implementation of the NCC2025
5. Provide free access for ACT builders to Australian Standards
6. Diversify access to fee-free training
7. Fund a campaign for Master Builders ACT to promote trades apprenticeships
8. Establish a pilot program for construction industry mentoring for young apprentices
9. Use existing levers to increase international migration for construction workers
10. Ensure local ACT builders have access to large projects, especially in the civil construction sector
11. Continually revise and update the ACT Infrastructure Plan to provide certainty for the engineering and civil construction sector

‘Now is the time for bold action,’ said Ms Neelagama.

‘We must work collaboratively with the ACT Government to implement these recommendations, and ensure a thriving construction sector that can deliver the housing our community urgently needs.’

The full submission can be viewed [here](#).

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