

## MEDIA RELEASE

# Inflation 2.0 drives up ACT building costs, housing prices

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canberra, ACT | Monday, 2 March 2026

**The January 2026 CPI results shows headline inflation rates are significantly above the Reserve Bank of Australia's target range, currently sitting nationally at 3.8%.**

Master Builders ACT CEO Anna Neelagama said that inflation is having a profound impact on the building and construction industry in the ACT.

'During January 2026 the annual inflation rate in Canberra was 3.6 per cent. If unchecked, persistent inflation will continue to blow out building costs in the region.

'We are seeing this bear out for households with rents rising 1.1 percent over the year to January 2026, and the cost of new dwelling purchases rising 2.6 per cent.'

Master Builders ACT has strongly encouraged the ACT Government to delivery structural reform to relieve pressure on building and construction businesses.

'The ACT building and construction industry stands ready to deliver more housing, but persistent inflation and rising costs does nothing for business or households,' said Ms Neelagama.

The Master Builders ACT Budget Submission can be viewed [here](#).

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