

## MEDIA RELEASE

# Missing Middle changes welcome amid worsening outlook for housing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canberra, ACT | Tuesday, 24 March 2026

**Master Builders ACT welcomes today's announcement from Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development Chris Steel to provide practical steps to enable more Missing Middle homes to be built.**

'Today's change is a sensible, practical step that will ensure Canberrans are able to build more homes without bringing the planning system to a standstill. It strikes the right balance of ensuring new homes meet our standards while also providing a streamlined pathway for low-risk additional dwellings that are already allowed by the planning system,' said Master Builders ACT CEO Anna Neelagama.

'Master Builders ACT has long called for changes to streamline approvals to avoid further delays in the planning system, and today's announcement from the Minister will help builders and homeowners alike to get building the homes we need for Canberrans.'

The ACT building sector is facing a grim outlook with residential construction in particular facing significant down risks due to rising interest rates and further effects of the ongoing global conflict and supply chain crunch.

The ACT property sector contributes more than 50% of the ACT Government's own-source revenue, so what is good for the construction sector is good for the ACT. We don't want to jeopardise the development of further housing through unnecessary regulatory burdens, such as onerous property developer licensing requirements and exorbitant fees and charges for construction work,' said Ms Neelagama.

'We are delighted to see the ACT Government has heeded calls from industry to reduce approvals timeframes and improve the planning system.'



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'We would welcome the ACT Government building on this commitment by increasing funding for skills, reducing the tax burden on the property sector, and reducing unnecessary red tape.'

**END**

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