

## MEDIA RELEASE

# Master Builders ACT responds to ACT Government push to implement National Construction Code 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Master Builders ACT has welcomed news of a 12-month transition period for adoption of the National Construction Code 2025 (NCC 2025), to be implemented in the ACT from 1 May 2027. However, Master Builders cautions that the reprieve does not address the ongoing issue of increased costs and complexity.**

The Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Chris Steel, today stated that the adoption of NCC 2025 aims to enhance building quality, promote modern standards, and provide greater support to homeowners and the construction sector. The transition period, effective from 1 May 2026, will allow builders the flexibility to comply with either the existing NCC 2022 or the new code for new projects.

Anna Neelagama, CEO of Master Builders ACT, said, 'While we appreciate the 12-month transition period and intent to align with New South Wales, we must stress that the industry is under significant pressure due to ongoing uncertainties resulting from the Middle East conflict. This is not the right time to introduce substantial changes that could further escalate costs for households.'

Ms Neelagama further highlighted that increased costs for new builds could range from \$14,000 to \$55,000, creating additional burdens for prospective homeowners.

'It is crucial to take into account the current economic climate and the financial strains placed on families looking to build or renovate. Increased materials costs, interest rate rises and fuel costs are already putting significant strain on builders and homebuyers alike,' Ms Neelagama said.

While updates in the NCC 2025 aim to improve the resilience and safety of buildings, Master Builders ACT urges the government to consider the broader impact on the construction industry and join other small jurisdictions in making this delay permanent.

'South Australia and Tasmania have both recognised that their building industries cannot cope with the increased costs and complexity imposed by NCC 2025 and will not be implementing this update. We urge the ACT Government to do the same,' said Ms Neelagama.

Master Builders ACT made several recommendations to the ACT Government regarding the NCC 2025 update, including:

- NCC 2022 undergo a detailed review prior to NCC 2025 being adopted
- A technical training package tailored to all parties responsible for upholding NCC is funded
- ACT should align the NCC2025 implementation process with other jurisdictions such as Tasmania
- A formal industry readiness assessment prior to enforcement of NCC 2025
- Avoid ACT-specific variations not nationally adopted
- A full cost-benefit analysis be undertaken for ACT housing and public projects be undertaken prior to implementation

'In the current uncertain climate, the last thing builders and homeowners need is added cost and complexity, for little gain. We urge the ACT government to closely consider our recommendations and avoid placing further pressure on industry at this time by further delaying this change,' said Ms Neelagama.

'We are committed to working closely with the ACT Government and the construction sector to ensure a smooth implementation of the new code, while advocating for the needs of builders and homeowners alike.'

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