

## MEDIA RELEASE

# Master Builders ACT welcomes public housing investment

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Canberra, ACT | Friday, 5 June 2026**

**Master Builders ACT has today welcomed the ACT Government's investment in public housing, saying it will help deliver much-needed homes for Canberrans who need them most.**

Today's Budget announcement shows the ACT Government is leveraging the Commonwealth's Housing Australia Future Fund Facility, which will strengthen the ACT's housing pipeline while providing greater certainty for the local building and construction industry.

'We welcome today's announcement as an important investment in public housing, and a practical opportunity to get more homes built for Canberra's most vulnerable,' said Master Builders ACT CEO Anna Neelagama.

'This shows that when planning processes are streamlined, governments have greater certainty to invest and can get people living in their new homes sooner.

'This is a smart investment that can help expand housing supply and provide a steadier pipeline of work for industry, but it must also deliver real opportunities for local builders and local workers.'

Master Builders ACT said the investment will only deliver its full economic and social value if procurement settings ensure local firms have a genuine opportunity to win and deliver the work.

'Master Builders ACT wants to see these homes built by local builders wherever possible. That means packaging projects in a way that allows capable ACT firms to compete, rather than defaulting to contract models that favour only the largest interstate or multinational companies,' Ms Neelagama said.

Master Builders ACT is calling for the ACT Government to back this investment with procurement and industry settings that build local capacity by:

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- investing in skills and training to grow the local construction workforce
- reforming procurement settings, including the Secure Local Jobs framework, so local participation is meaningfully reflected in contract outcomes
- structuring and packaging projects so capable ACT builders can competitively tender for the work
- streamlining approvals processes for more housing types to provide investment and delivery certainty.

'Government procurement work tends to favour large corporates, with too little regard for the local businesses that employ Canberrans, train apprentices and invest in the ACT economy. Local builders are ready to do this work, and they should be given a fair shot. We stand ready to build,' said Ms Neelagama.

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