

## MEDIA RELEASE

# One week from ACT Budget, Master Builders urges action to boost housing supply

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Master Builders ACT is calling on the ACT Government to use the Budget to back practical measures that increase housing supply, support industry confidence and reduce pressure on homebuyers and renters.**

The call comes as building approvals data for April from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows the ACT is a rare bright spot for housing approvals, within sustained increases in building, bucking a national trend of decline. Despite this, housing affordability and supply remain under sustained pressure, and Master Builders ACT says the upcoming Budget must focus squarely on getting more homes built.

Master Builders ACT CEO Anna Neelagama said the ACT Budget is a critical opportunity for the Government to show it understands the scale of the housing challenge facing Canberra.

‘With one week to go until the ACT Budget, the building and construction industry is looking for a clear plan to increase housing supply and support the delivery of new homes across the Territory,’ Ms Neelagama said.

‘At a time of rising interest rates and materials costs, the ACT Government should be focused on measures that make it easier, faster and more viable to build, rather than adding further costs or uncertainty for industry and consumers. If the Government is proceeding with redundancies in the ACT

public service, it must ensure the approvals process is sped up so reduced staffing does not create further delays for housing delivery,' Ms Neelagama said.

'The ACT needs a Budget that grows the construction workforce, streamlines delivery and helps unlock the pipeline of new housing. That means backing policies that reduce barriers to construction and give builders the confidence to keep delivering the homes our community needs.'

Master Builders ACT said any reduction in public service capacity must not come at the expense of timely planning, development and building approvals, with delays in those systems risking further pressure on housing supply across the Territory.

Master Builders ACT said next week's Budget will be closely watched by an industry that is already managing cost pressures, workforce constraints and broader uncertainty.

'The Missing Middle and 30,000 homes will not build themselves. Investment in the construction workforce, particularly our apprentices, is essential to ensuring that the ACT Government can meet its own ambitious housing and infrastructure plans.

'This Budget should send a strong signal that the ACT is serious about working with industry to tackle the housing crisis. We need a stable, practical policy environment that helps deliver more homes, supports jobs and keeps the construction pipeline moving,' Ms Neelagama said.

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