

MEDIA RELEASE

Master Builders ACT: time to review the Secure Local Jobs Code

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canberra, ACT | Wednesday, 10 June 2026

Master Builders ACT today welcomed a recommendation from the Inquiry into Financial Management and Government Procurement Legislative Compliance that the ACT Government review the Secure Local Jobs Code.

Master Builders ACT CEO Anna Neelagama said the ACT Government needed to urgently review the Secure Local Jobs Code to ensure a level playing field for the local ACT building and construction sector.

‘The Secure Local Jobs Code disproportionately rewards interstate contractors at the expense of local businesses, directly at odds with the stated purpose of the Code,’ said Ms Neelagama.

‘We have seen an interstate contractor banned from work in New South Wales somehow gain a certificate under the Secure Local Jobs Code and win work in the ACT, despite suspected underpayments and unpaid tax. These jobs are neither secure nor local.’

Master Builders ACT remains concerned that the ACT Government has no way to track the proportion of work going to local industry. Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith and officials could rely only on anecdotal evidence, and could not demonstrate that the Secure Local Jobs Code is delivering the results the ACT Government and community expect.

‘Supporting local building and construction businesses means that more of the ACT Government’s investment stays in the ACT economy,’ said Ms Neelagama.

‘Our builders live and work in our local community, and spend money at local businesses, ensuring an economy-wide boost.

‘We’d like to thank the Committee for considering the role of the Secure Local Jobs Code as part of the broader procurement framework, and for making a recommendation to review the Code.

'Recent events, with a contractor banned interstate winning work in the ACT, confirm the Committee's recommendation that it's time to review the Secure Local Jobs Code.'

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