

MEDIA RELEASE

Builders welcome progress on National Convention and Entertainment Centre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Master Builders ACT has welcomed the next steps for the National Convention and Entertainment Centre, describing it as an important milestone for a city-shaping project that has the potential to deliver significant economic and construction activity for the ACT, but warns procurement settings must be right to maximise the benefit for local industry.

Master Builders ACT CEO Anna Neelagama said the announcement demonstrated positive momentum on a project that could support Canberra's visitor economy, attract major national and international events and contribute to the continued transformation of the city centre.

'A new National Convention and Entertainment Centre has the potential to be a transformative project for Canberra, and we welcome this next step towards turning that vision into reality,' Ms Neelagama said.

'Projects of this scale create opportunities not only for major events and tourism, but they're also critical to ensure local businesses, workers, apprentices and the broader local construction supply chain also benefit.'

Ms Neelagama said the next phase of the project would be crucial to ensuring it delivers long-term value for Canberra and supports local industry participation.

'As planning progresses, it is essential that procurement settings are designed to maximise opportunities for local builders, subcontractors, suppliers and trades.'

'We have a highly capable local construction industry with the skills, experience and capacity to deliver major infrastructure projects. Local companies should have a genuine opportunity to compete for and participate in this work.'

Master Builders ACT said lessons from previous ACT Government procurement experiences highlighted the importance of procurement frameworks that encourage strong competition, support local jobs and skills, and provide clear and practical pathways for local businesses to participate.

'Getting the procurement settings right from the outset will help ensure the economic benefits of this project are retained in the Canberra community,' Ms Neelagama said.

'We look forward to working constructively with both the ACT and Australian Governments to ensure local industry is positioned to play a meaningful role in delivering this landmark project.'

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Media enquiries:

Tara Nichols | Communications & Marketing Manager
tnichols@mba.org.au | 0430 026 612