



**MASTER BUILDERS**  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

## Media Release

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### Master Builders acknowledge positive in difficult Budget

*Statement by Executive Director of the MBA-ACT, John Miller*

Canberra's peak building and construction industry organisation, Master Builders ACT has branded the 2012/13 ACT Budget as the best that could be hoped for in difficult economic circumstances.

The executive director of the MBA-ACT, John Miller said that while it was always regrettable when Governments found themselves forced to go into deficit, it was difficult to see any other alternatives for an ACT administration confronted by the challenge of attempting to maintain employment and growth in a difficult economy.

"Given the challenges confronting the Government, we are pleased to note some positive measures announced today with respect to capital works in terms of infrastructure development and land releases," he said.

However Mr Miller expressed disappointment that the key infrastructure proposal linking the city and Gungahlin had been deferred.

He said the Government's caution was understandable and clearly reflected its long-term desire to return the Budget back to surplus as early as possible.

Mr Miller said that while the MBA-ACT had some regrets with respect to major infrastructure projects, it did note the Budget's Indicative Land Release Program had a target of 19,500 dwelling sites over the next four years, although cautioned that many factors locally and internationally will dictate how that plays out.

He said the industry also welcomed the \$38 million over two years committed to the extension of John Gorton Drive at Molonglo and the further \$17 million allocated to the upgrade of Uriarra Road to provide access to new land releases.

Mr Miller said this needed to be viewed alongside other capital works projects announced in the Budget, including \$10.5 million over two years for the reconstruction of three signalised intersections in North Weston and \$12.4 million over the next three years for a sewer connection and pedestrian bridge over the Molonglo River.

He also noted \$11.5 million allocated over three years for the construction of the extension of Horse Park Drive to link Burrumarra Avenue and Mirrabai Drive, to facilitate future land releases in Moncrieff.

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“This was a necessarily challenging Budget for the ACT and while we might have liked to have seen a higher level of capital expenditure, we believed the Government has delivered as much as it could afford in difficult circumstances.

“With respect to Tax Reform initiatives announced along with the Budget, the Government will need to closely monitor and recalibrate, if necessary, measures aimed at creating private sector investment to sit alongside the Budget initiatives,” Mr. Miller said.

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