



## Media Release

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### **Builders welcome undertaking on Lease Variation Charge**

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

Canberra's peak building and construction industry organisation, Master Builders ACT has welcomed a commitment by the ACT Liberal Party to commit a future Liberal Government to reduce the Lease Variation Charge to 2011-2012 levels.

The executive director of the MBA-ACT, John Miller said the undertaking issued by the Liberals was welcomed for the manner in which it was capable of reducing some of the underlying costs impacting the ACT building and construction industry.

"While MBA-ACT takes no sides in a campaign environment, it is fair to say that our organisation is strongly on the record on seeking to reduce a range of cost impacts on our industry, not least elements such as the Lease Variation Charge," he said.

Mr Miller said the most recent data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics had served to highlight the challenges confronting building and construction companies in the ACT and, because of this, any effort to reduce costs imposts was welcome.

"Equally welcome, would be further consultation with our industry on the manner in which it is being impacted not only by the current Lease Variation Charge but other regulatory cost impacts," he said.

Mr Miller said the MBA-ACT had a tradition of working with Government irrespective of which particular party was sitting on the Treasury benches in the Legislative Assembly and that would continue to be the case.

"However we owe it to our members and to the broader Canberra economy to acknowledge policy initiatives which we believe will have broad benefit and the potential to lift activity levels in our industry," he said.

Mr Miller said that at the same time as welcoming the Liberals' commitment on the Lease Variation Charge, the MBA-ACT was acknowledging the efforts by the Government flowing from the ACT Budget to maintain activity levels in the industry in Canberra.

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