



the voice of the industry

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE

Housing Industry Supports ACT Stimulus Package

The Housing Industry Association has welcomed today's announcement by the Chief Minister of the first stage of a support package for the ACT economy.

"The first priority is boosting the economy, so measures that keep Canberra's in jobs and inject money into businesses – particularly those feeling the immediate brunt of the crisis – are a must," said HIA Executive Director for ACT and Southern NSW Greg Weller.

"The short term measures for the construction sector, including fast tracking the minor capital works program, reducing government payment terms from 30 to 14 days and concessions on commercial rates and payroll tax, are welcome.

"It is also pleasing that some measures are forward looking to assist lay the platform for stabilisation and for the recovery that will come. These include reversing recent cuts to the training subsidy for trade apprentices and reprioritising resources towards ensuring that planning approvals are expedited.

"It is essential that no housing project is stalled or job not created, due to a hold-up in the processes of government.

"The residential building industry has demonstrated the capacity during times of national economic hardship to lead the recovery, such as in the aftermath of the GST and GFC. Jobs, business, national productivity, and even taxation, all benefit from strong residential building activity. The challenges now are likely to be no different, so measures that assist the sector retain a pipeline of work are prudent.

"The stimulus measures announced today are a positive start. We welcome the opportunity to work with the Government as the impacts on our industry become clear."

For further information please contact:

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