



Australian Capital Territory

Budget 2011-2012

Media Release

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Budget to deliver improved building quality in the ACT

The 2011-12 Budget will deliver more than \$8 million over the next four years to improve building quality and regulation of the building industry in the ACT, Minister for Planning Andrew Barr MLA announced today.

“The ACT Government’s commitment to land release and affordable housing strategies together with high consumer demand, has seen construction activity in ACT increasing at a rapid rate as our city continues to grow.

“That’s why we must work smarter and improve the highest building standards for our community and why this Budget will see an investment over four years of \$6.7 million for a building quality program; \$1.5 million for improved regulation of building energy efficiency; and \$568,000 for enhanced utilities regulation.

“A well regulated construction industry is essential to ensure that new dwellings entering the market place meet both community expectations of quality, safety and environmental sustainability, as well as the standards set down in relation to these areas by the national Building Code of Australia and local requirements for licensed trades.” Mr Barr explained.

In addition, this funding will provide a much needed increase to capacity in a number of important operational areas that are key to achieving these outcomes, including:

- Expanded electrical, plumbing and gas inspection certification teams and building investigation and audit teams to ensure all new dwellings meet exacting safety standards prior to occupation and addressing and investigating complaints about building quality.
- An enhanced compliance management service which is critical in ensuring appropriate recourse is available to the community in instances where severe breaches of the building standards are identified; and
- Improvements to the building quality framework in the ACT, including amending the Building Act and subordinate legislation to address the building quality reforms, the National Energy Efficiency Strategy and the Disability Access Standards, and investigating the expansion of specific Government initiatives such as the ACT House Energy Rating Scheme (Weathering the Change Action Plan 1).

“These initiatives will ensure the delivery of safe and energy efficient residential installations meeting existing and new local and national safety standards,” Mr Barr concluded.

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