

## MEDIA RELEASE

16 July 2025

### **Minns Government onto a winning combination with pattern book designs and 10-day assessments**

Urban Taskforce CEO Tom Forrest today welcomed the publication of the NSW Pattern Book for low-rise buildings (1-2 storey terraces, manor homes, duplexes and apartments), saying the linking of the standardise pattern book designs with the opportunity to turn applications into commencements in just 10 days as a significant, breakthrough reform.

Today sees the delivery of significant micro-economic reform for the NSW planning system. The pattern book, together with a fast-tracked code-based assessment, will slash planning bureaucracy.

The pattern book design licences will cost only \$1 each (rising to \$1,000 in early 2026). This represents an immediate saving of tens of thousands of dollars to get an architectural design. These design patterns are pre-approved, saving months in assessment times.

Builders will be able to use the patterns to drive off-site pre-manufactured building components, driving building volume for off-site manufactured homes and competition for the supply of these new home products.

When we talk about improving productivity in our sector – these are the types of reforms we are talking about. Urban Taskforce also looks forward to the delivery of a pattern book to back the mid-rise reforms for 3 – 6 storey apartment buildings later in the year.

Today's release of the pattern book is an important step in speeding up assessment times for such housing and should become a widely accepted pathway to more low-rise housing. By making this category of housing complying development, it takes the wind out of the NIMBY sails and should see more low-rise housing in many well-located parts of NSW.

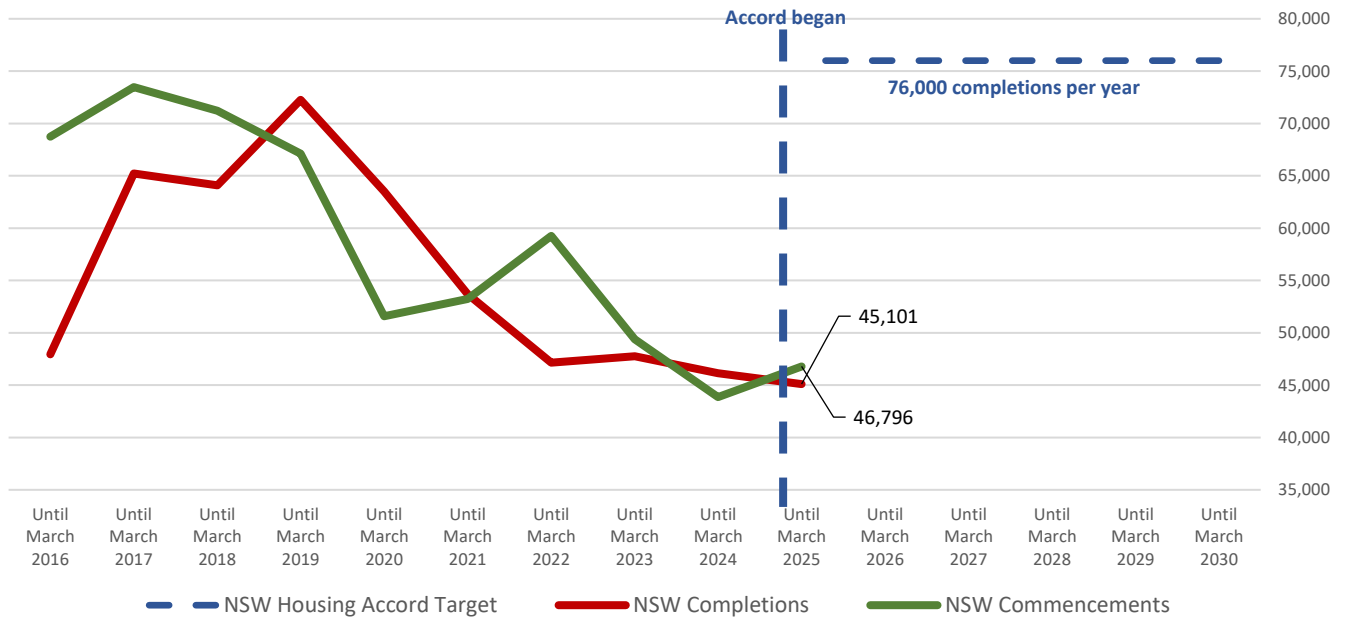
Today's announcement is an important acknowledgement of the costs that are increasingly being lumped on new housing. This is a big step in the right direction to lower those costs and speed up the system.

The release of the pattern book is opportune, given **today's release of ABS dwelling commencement and completions data.**

The news is starting to look more positive in NSW, with new dwelling commencements on the rise. While this remains a long way behind the 76,000 new homes required each year under the National Housing Accord, today's pattern book announcement will deliver a much needed boost.

When combined with the infill affordable housing bonus, the Housing Delivery Authority undertaking assessments on larger scale housing projects, the TOD reforms, the pre sales finance guarantee, and the low and mid-rise reforms, the supply picture is starting to look more positive. The pattern books, along with code based fast track assessment will make a difference.

## Annualised NSW Dwelling Commencements and Completions



Source: 8752.0 Building Activity, Australia. TABLE 34. Number of Dwelling Unit Commencements by Sector, States and Territories & TABLE 38. Number of Dwelling Unit Completions by Sector, States and Territories - Release 16/07/25

The progress towards the National Housing Accord target of 240,000 per year for all of Australia is more modest, with only 178,000 new homes commenced over the past 12 months across the Nation.

	Australia Completed Houses	Australia Completed Multi unit dwellings	Australia Completed All Types
12 months till end March 2025	111,640	64,978	177,856
12 months till end March 2024	115,231	60,249	176,330
12 months till end March 2023	115,172	57,895	173,629
12 months till end March 2022	109,756	68,074	178,993
12 months till end March 2021	104,425	76,198	181,757
12 months till end March 2020	110,392	90,880	202,715
12 months till end March 2019	120,642	97,222	219,485
12 months till end March 2018	112,768	99,420	214,092
12 months till end March 2017	114,165	95,530	212,219
12 months till end March 2016	118,874	76,821	197,503

ABS 8752.0 Building Activity, Australia, Dwelling Unit Completions by Sector, Australia, Released 16/7/2025

The Minns Government has taken a bold step in productivity reform in the lead up to the National summit. The ball is now in the Commonwealth's court to push for tax reform, labour productivity reform and infrastructure delivery support for housing.

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The comments and analysis above can be attributed to **Tom Forrest**, CEO, Urban Taskforce.

The **Urban Taskforce Australia** is a property development industry group, representing Australia's most prominent property developers and equity financiers.

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