

MEDIA RELEASE

10 November 2025

ABS housing data – How are Regional Councils tracking?

Urban Taskforce CEO, Tom Forrest, said today that the latest ABS Housing Approvals data represents an important milestone, allowing us to measure the progress of each Council towards delivering against the National Housing Accord.

We are now 15 months into the 5-year Accord, or 25% through – and the news on which Councils are the best and which are the worst is in.

Urban Taskforce analysis of today's ABS housing approvals data release shows that **Maitland** (122.6% of its target to date) and **Cessnock** (103.9%) are leading the field in the Newcastle, Central Coast, Illawarra areas.

	NEWCASTLE, CENTRAL COAST, ILLAWARRA	Pro-rata completions target to September, 2025	Approvals so far during Housing Accord	Progress towards pro-rata Accord target
1	Maitland	1,325	1,624	122.6%
2	Cessnock	975	1,013	103.9%
3	Shellharbour	950	795	83.7%
4	Port Stephens	525	426	81.1%
5	Shoalhaven	1,225	986	80.5%
6	Wollongong	2,300	1,835	79.8%
7	Lake Macquarie	2,000	1,470	73.5%
8	Central Coast	2,350	1,504	64.0%
9	Kiama	225	97	43.1%
10	Newcastle	2,775	1,111	40.0%

Source: ABS 87310DO005_202509 Building Approvals, LGA data cube released 10/11/2025

Other councils in those regions are performing reasonably well, compared to their Sydney Metropolitan counterparts, although **Kiama** (43.1%) and **Newcastle** (40.0%) are struggling to meet their targets.

For councils outside the major centres of Sydney, the Hunter, and the Illawarra, the leading performers in terms of approvals are **Port Macquarie-Hastings** (710 approvals in 15 months), **Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional** (704), and **Dubbo Regional** (647).

NSW is key to achieving National targets, and increasing approvals in this State is the first step to completing the new housing numbers required by the Housing Accord targets.

	BEST PERFORMING - OTHER REGIONAL (numbers only)	Pro-rata completions target to September, 2025	Approvals so far during Housing Accord
1	Port Macquarie-Hastings		710
2	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional		704
3	Dubbo Regional		647
4	Mid-Coast		562
5	Tweed		469
6	Tamworth Regional		463
7	Albury		424
8	Wagga Wagga		392
9	Wingecarribee		390
10	Coffs Harbour		373

Source: ABS 87310DO005_202509 Building Approvals, LGA data cube released 10/11/2025

At 52,462 approvals in NSW in the 12 months to the end of September, we're still a long way behind the 76,000 dwellings we need to deliver each year, but approvals are on the improve.

The National figure for the 12 months till September is 192,216 - also a long way behind the 240,000 dwellings needed each year for the five years of the Accord.

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

Media Enquires: Tom Forrest, Chief Executive Officer: 0429 460 863

Follow us:



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