

## MEDIA RELEASE

1 April 2026

### One third of the way into the National Housing Accord - signs that NSW is clicking into gear

Tom Forrest, CEO of the Urban Taskforce, said that today's ABS housing data for approvals in February 2026 showed an up-tick for both stand-alone homes and apartments – signs that the cumulative effect of the Minns Government's reforms were starting to make an impact. But the big gains were in Victoria which pushed up the National results.

ABS data shows that in NSW there were 4,332 dwellings were approved in the month of February – a 10% improvement on last month's figures. In Victoria, there were 6,087 dwellings approved in the month of February – an 85% increase on the prior month's poor results.

**NSW dwelling approvals - previous 13 months - ABS Release: 01/04/2026**

	Multi Unit Dwellings	Houses	Total
February 2026	2,166	2,166	4,332
January 2026	2,022	1,914	3,936
December 2025	2,230	1,890	4,120
November 2025	2,820	1,990	4,810
October 2025	1,855	1,947	3,802
September 2025	2,867	1,918	4,785
August 2025	1,862	1,771	3,633
July 2025	2,230	1,981	4,211
June 2025	3,993	1,864	5,857
May 2025	2,445	1,871	4,316
April 2025	1,932	1,978	3,910
March 2025	2,324	1,949	4,273
February 2025	1,521	1,973	3,494

ABS, 87310 Building Approvals, Australia, Table 01. Number of dwelling units approved, by sector, all series - New South Wales, - Released: 01/04/2026

While still well off what is required to meet the Housing Accord targets – there are now signs that NSW Government's planning reform agenda is starting to have an impact.

Annualised figures showed marked improvement, with the 12 months to February seeing almost 52,000 new homes approved – the best result over comparable periods since 2022.

But again – far fewer than what is required to meet the Accord targets.

## NSW annualised dwelling approvals - ABS Release: 01/04/2026

	Multi-Unit Dwellings	Houses	Total
12 months till end February 2026	28,746	23,239	51,985
12 months till end February 2025	24,567	22,370	46,937
12 months till end February 2024	23,269	23,135	46,404
12 months till end February 2023	23,928	26,860	50,788
12 months till end February 2022	31,423	31,166	62,589
12 months till end February 2021	24,781	27,874	52,655
12 months till end February 2020	25,767	24,281	50,048
12 months till end February 2019	33,191	30,396	63,587
12 months till end February 2018	42,209	30,335	72,544
12 months till end February 2017	46,684	29,717	76,401

ABS, 87310 Building Approvals, Australia, Table 01 Number of dwelling units approved, by sector, all series - New South Wales, - Released: 01/04/2026

As the State led rezonings and assessments start to flow through over the next 12-18 months, along with the Housing Delivery Authority pathway starting to bear first fruits these numbers should continue to improve.

These state led reforms are backed up by the successful infill affordable housing bonus scheme, the low to mid rise housing reforms and Transport Oriented Developments - all starting to make a difference.

When the Rosehill Gardens deal fell over last year, Urban Taskforce called for "Plans B to Z" to ensure the Government was playing its part.

**Today we saw the Minns Government release its finalised Masterplan for Sydney Olympic Park which will facilitate an additional 13,000 new homes over the next 2 decades.**

This comes on top of the commitment to 8,500 new homes at Bays West, 18,000 new homes at Burwood North, 10,000 new homes at Woollahra as well as the tunnel dive sites at Camperdown and Chatswood, showing the Government now pulling all the levers when it comes to housing supply.

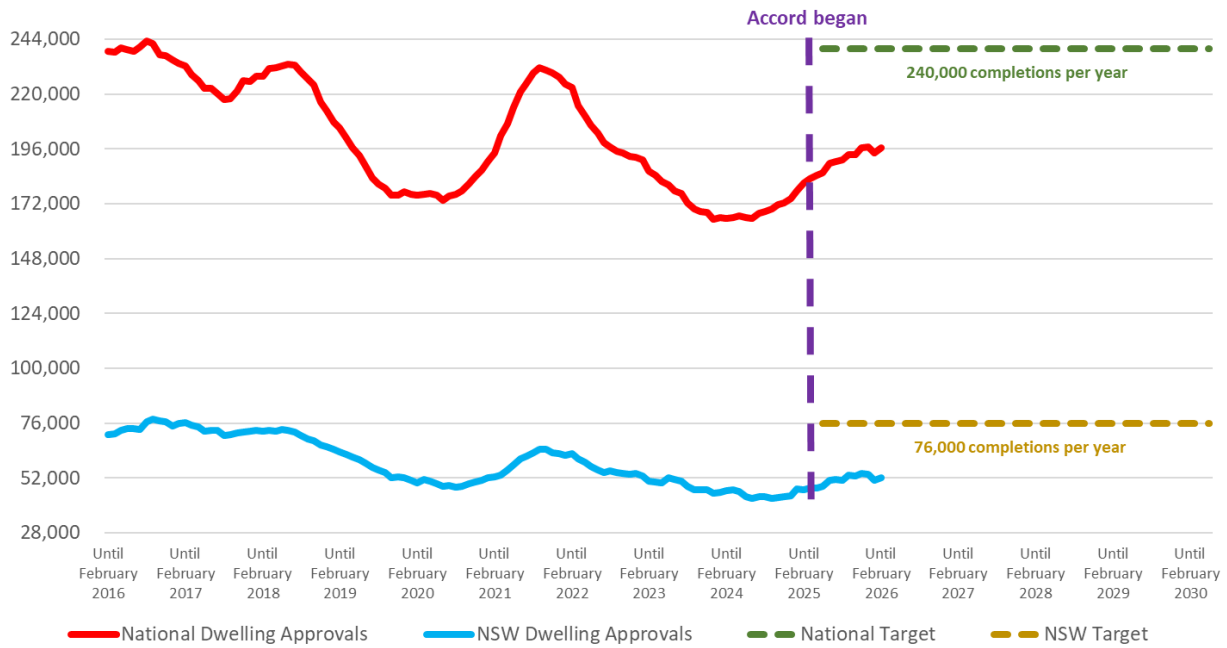
**Nationally**, there was significant improvement, with the numbers reflecting the better results in both NSW and particularly in Victoria.

But turning today's housing approvals data into actual houses that people can live in will depend on what the Commonwealth can do to support housing related infrastructure and how they manage the inflationary effects of the oil crisis.

There are strong headwinds before us, so any consideration of changes to taxes need to be assessed in terms of their impact on housing supply.

While it's not sensible to draw long-term conclusions from a single month's data, the signs bring some hope to an industry that is facing further uncertainties with spikes in construction and finance costs spurred on by the middle east situation.

## 12 month dwelling approvals - National v NSW



Source: ABS, 8731.0 Building Approvals, Australia, Table O1. Number of Dwelling units approved, seasonally adjusted - New South Wales, and Table O6. Number of Dwellings units approved, seasonally adjusted - Australia, Released 1/04/2026

## National dwelling approvals - previous 13 months - ABS Release: 01/04/2026

	Multi Unit Dwellings	Houses	Total
February 2026	9,071	9,951	19,022
January 2026	4,696	9,973	14,669
December 2025	6,002	9,799	15,800
November 2025	8,759	9,663	18,423
October 2025	6,458	9,581	16,039
September 2025	7,571	9,629	17,200
August 2025	6,103	9,291	15,394
July 2025	6,494	9,597	16,090
June 2025	8,252	9,337	17,589
May 2025	6,027	9,454	15,481
April 2025	5,411	9,574	14,986
March 2025	6,567	9,230	15,798
March 2025	7,282	9,408	16,690

ABS, 87310 Building Approvals, Australia, Table O6. Number of dwelling units approved, by sector, all series - Australia, - Released: 01/04/2026

End

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

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