

MEDIA RELEASE

22% JUMP IN WA HOME STARTS

9 April 2026

New Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows over the 12 months to December 2025, a total of 23,830 new homes were started across Western Australia.

Master Builders Western Australia CEO Matt Moran said this was a 22.9 per cent increase compared to the previous year.

“In the December quarter alone, there were 6,307 new home commencements in WA,” said Mr Moran.

“That makes it WA’s strongest quarter for new home building activity since September 2021.”

Despite a strong performance in 2025, WA is still tracking over 4000 homes short of its National Housing Accord target, just 18 months into its five-year term.

Mr Moran said since the Accord commenced on 1 July 2024 to the end of December 2025, a total of 34,764 new home starts were recorded across the state.

“WA’s building and construction industry is currently experiencing a critical skills shortage, so in that context, almost 35,000 home starts in 18 months is a good result,” said Mr Moran.

“However, to meet the target set by the Accord, we needed to have started work on close to 39,000 homes in that time.”

“To make up that shortfall, we’ll need to build an extra hundred homes per month over the next three-and-a-half years,” Mr Moran said.

The National Housing Accord target for Western Australia is 129,700 homes built by 30 June 2029.

Mr Moran believes before the Iran War, the shortfall was recoverable – but even with yesterday’s news of a ceasefire, MBAWA is concerned about the lingering effects on material and fuel prices, let alone the skills shortage.

“WA is experiencing a critical skills shortage, and we estimate our state needs tens of thousands of additional workers in the residential sector this year alone to meet current demand.”



“The building and construction industry has experienced an incredible amount of pressure over the past few years, and we need to remain focused on creating supply-side solutions to ease some of it,” said Mr Moran.

“This includes growing the building and construction workforce and ensuring the sector is recognised as a priority industry in the future if geopolitical tensions threaten supply further.”

Who we are

Master Builders services the needs of the entire building and construction industry, from residential to commercial, civil engineering businesses, principal contractors to subcontractors, manufacturers and suppliers. We assist members by providing access to a wide range of specialised services, recognition through awards, and advocacy to government and industry. MBAWA also serves the Western Australian public by fostering best practice work standards.

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