

Media Release

Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Premier



Thursday, 19 March 2026

LABOR IS MAKING IT FASTER AND EASIER TO BUILD MORE HOMES

Labor is making it faster and easier to build more homes – without projects getting stuck in the planning system.

Gazetted today, the Allan Labor Government's new Mid-Rise Code will come into effect in 28 days.

It will help get more homes built, sooner, in buildings between four and six storeys.

If a project meets clear, statewide standards, it gets approved. No drawn-out delays. No VCAT limbo.

This will help cut average approval times by around five months. That means homes get built sooner – bringing down the cost of home building.

Importantly, the code locks in strong design standards – including protections for privacy, trees and green space to ensure homes are well-designed and light-filled.

The code will only apply to zones where four to six storeys are already allowed.

If an application is in an area with heritage or flood overlays it will still need to comply with these rules, as well as meeting the code.

If an application doesn't meet the code, it will have to go through a separate planning process.

This builds on Labor's Townhouse Code – our reform to help start the townhouse revolution. Last year, the Liberals tried to block this reform in Parliament.

Jess Wilson's Liberals have made it clear, they want to tear up our planning reforms – meaning homes don't get built and young Victorians get locked out of the housing market.

Only Labor has new solutions to make life easier and more affordable for Victorians.

Quotes attributable to Premier Jacinta Allan

"This is about saying yes to more homes."

"Well-designed mid-rise projects shouldn't be stuck in the system – they should be getting built."

"The Mid-Rise Code is how we deliver more homes, faster, in the places people want to live."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny

"We're making it easier to get homes built where families and young Victorians want to live."

"The status quo is not an option. We need to deliver more housing choice where Victorians want it – close to public transport, jobs and services."

"Jess Wilson's NIMBY Liberals want to take away this choice – they're focused on blocking homes in areas well-connected to the public transport, jobs and services Victorians rely on."

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