

# Deb Foskey MLA

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## Land tax could ease affordable housing woes

ACT Greens MLA, Dr Deb Foskey, today welcomed the Government's response to the Public Account Committee's recommendations in its inquiry into Land Valuation in the ACT.

"The ACT Government today responded to the Committee's recommendations on improving land valuation processes in the ACT," said Dr Foskey today.

"Land valuation is the basis of rates and other costs to landowners, often affecting renters."

"I am particularly pleased that the Government has agreed to the Committee's recommendation number seven, that the Government investigate ways of using land tax as a lever to increase the supply of affordable housing."

"I note, however, that the Government's response pre-empts its findings by quoting Treasury, indicating that its mind is already made up."

"The Greens and community organisations have argued that land tax is a considerable impost, an element in Canberra's high rents, and has the potential to be used to increase the supply of affordable private rental housing.

"The ACT Government has consistently refused to consider that view, so I am glad that the Committee was able to convince it otherwise" Dr Foskey said.

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