COUNTRY LIBERALS
MEDIA RELEASE
LABOR FAILED ON CAREY BUILDERS
Adam Giles MLA
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The individuals and families who contracted Carey Builders to construct their dream homes in Alice Springs were badly let down by the Labor Government.

Member for Braitling, Adam Giles, said the Government’s failure to implement its own legislation and administer regulation has caused considerable heart-ache to the people caught up in the Carey collapse.

During a briefing with Lands and Planning officials today, it was revealed that despite Careys’ registration expiring in January 2009, its clients were not told the business no longer had the confidence of the Builders Registration Board.

“This was a significant oversight that could have prevented hundreds-of-thousands of dollars going to a builder who had previously failed to discharge debts in Queensland,” Mr Giles said.

“Instead of notifying the company’s clients that his registration had not been renewed and that complaints had been made against him in relation to the unpaid debts, the Government was silent.

“This meant the community had no way of knowing they should have thought twice before making financial commitments to Carey Builders after his license expired.

“The Government was obliged to contact all of Mr Carey’s clients individually, telling them he was no longer a registered builder in the Northern Territory.”

Mr Giles said it appears Labor was in breach of its own legislation from the moment the Government passed into law its amendments to the Building Act in 2005 that required builder registration, including the demonstration of competency and financial capacity.

“The law requires background checks of all builders seeking registration which, in Mr Carey’s case, was never carried out,” he said.

“Had it been, it would have revealed that Mr Carey had previously left unpaid debts in Queensland, something that could have been verified by a simple internet search.”

Mr Giles said this basic failure to follow its own regulations increases the pressure on Government to pay for a quantity surveyor to inspect the dozen or so houses left unfinished by the collapse of Carey Builders.

“To do anything else would just add to the complete abandonment of the Government’s responsibility,” he said.

Further comment: Adam Giles 0421 588 118