Adam Giles  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

**Tackling Labor’s multi-billion dollar red tape legacy**

29 October 2014

Labor’s disgraceful red tape legacy has been laid bare in a new report by Deloitte which shows the burden on local business exploded between 2006 and 2011.

Deloittes’ *Building the lucky country* report shows that over this five year period, the Territory had the fastest growth in red tape compliance workers as a proportion of the workforce. This is a key indicator that regulation is on the rise.

“This report is unequivocal in its finding that red tape grew exponentially under Labor’s watch and that legacy is now costing local businesses $4 billion every year,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“It’s a mess that has stifled development of the North, locking up cash and resources that could be used more productively in our economy.

“As the architect of this red tape straight jacket for local businesses, Delia Lawrie should be ashamed of herself.

“Of particular note is the increase in compliance costs in construction and mining, two of our most important growth sectors, during Labor’s time in government.

“We know from our recent Developing the North Boardroom Series that this culture of excessive red tape is a huge barrier to investment.

“That’s why we’ve launched an aggressive blitz on red tape since coming to Government, winning warm praise from Deloitte for our efforts.

“We are driving down the cost of doing business in the Territory by slashing the ‘dumb’ rules and regulations that put the brake on development and investment.

“Since the Country Liberals were elected in 2012, almost 200 initiatives have been completed or are underway across government to slash red tape.” (see attached)

This campaign covers a range of areas including construction, mining, motor vehicle registration, licensing for trades, property conveyancing, building approvals, land titles, tourism and government procurement.
“We have established a Red Tape Abolition Squad and our procurement reforms are making it easier for businesses to tender and supply goods and services to government,” Mr Giles said.

“Last month, I launched a new one stop website for the tracking of invoices, making it quicker and easier for businesses to get their government bills paid. We’ve also launched a website for the public to report unnecessary bureaucracy.

“Some of our most important reforms have been in the construction sector, helping fast track new residential development across the Territory to increase housing supply and drive down the cost of living.

"We have introduced Australia’s first online integrated building approval lodgement system, shaved three months off rezoning approval times and started a one stop shop for development applications.

“In especially welcome news for local construction projects, starting this month new developments only need one utilities clearance to secure title instead of the current two clearances for the same project.

“This has been a huge cash-flow issue for many developers and has previously slowed the release of properties onto the market. I am pleased we have been able to listen to the concerns of the industry and deliver this important change.

“Whilst we are working hard to tackle government red tape, the Deloitte report makes it clear that the private sector most also shoulder some of the blame. Business is also suffering under the weight of self-imposed red tape and this needs to change.”

Submit your ideas for red tape reduction at [www.cuttingredtape.nt.gov.au](http://www.cuttingredtape.nt.gov.au)

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200 NTG red tape initiatives