Peter Styles
Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Minister for Business

**Cutting red tape build up from construction sector**

4 July 2016

The Northern Territory Government’s efforts to free up NT Industries from stifling red tape are continuing with significant reforms underway to streamline processes within the construction sector.

Minister for Business Peter Styles said unnecessary red tape, externally or self-imposed, is estimated to cost the construction and development sector more than $350 million every year.

“The NT Government established the Construction and Development Advisory Council (CDAC) comprised of 10 sector representatives from across the Territory, to investigate and make recommendations to government about reducing red tape in the sector,” Mr Styles said.

“The Council’s report highlighted the key challenges faced by the private sector and government agencies, and recommended significant reforms to the way the sector is regulated.

“The Council was assisted in the review by Deloitte which collected evidence from consultations with government authorities and stakeholders, including a survey of around 900 registered builders across the NT and a workshop to discuss solutions to the issues identified.

“The Northern Territory Government has endorsed the report and is in the process of implementing its recommended reforms.”

The reforms fall into three broad areas briefly listed below.

- **Long term strategic planning** to provide regulatory certainty about where and how development can take place, recommendations include:
  - Completion of priority strategic land use plans and area plans.
  - Review of Planning Scheme to enable more permitted uses and to tighten use of Exceptional Development Permits.
  - Finalisation of Uniform Subdivision Guidelines.

- **Greater consistency in decision making**, recommendations include:
  - Review of the National Construction Code.
• Review of building certification system/processes to reduce inconsistency in advice on compliance with Code.

• A Building Certifiers Panel has been established to recommend improvements to the building certification process with a focus on reducing delays and improving efficiency.

• **Customer focused service delivery**, recommendations include:
  
  • Single point of entry for development approvals.
  
  • Concurrent processes and upfront approvals.
  
  • Reduce unnecessary forms and paperwork.
  
  • Greater engagement with WorkSafe NT for education, support and advice.

In July 2015, Government released the NTG Red Tape Reduction Strategy, developed by the Red Tape Abolition Squad within the Department of Business.

One part of this Strategy is to target specific sectors and work with stakeholders and agencies to improve the regulatory and compliance framework. Sector reviews have commenced for the Tourism and NGO sectors.

“The Country Liberals Government is committed to reducing the cost and time burdens on NT industry sectors by eliminating obstructive and unnecessary processes,” Mr Styles said.

“That is why we have committed to unravelling the web of red tape that built up over more than a decade under the previous Labor Government.

“Only the Country Liberals Government can deliver a business environment free of stifling red tape and ensure a prosperous economy for Territorians.”

The construction and development sector is a prominent sector in the Northern Territory economy. In 2014, the industry contributed 21% of the total value added to the Territory economy and directly employed 15,000 people.

Some of the recommendations will take some time to implement as they involve consultation, legislative change and administrative change.

For more information on red tape initiatives please visit [www.cuttingredtape.nt.gov.au](http://www.cuttingredtape.nt.gov.au).

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**CDAC Report**