Cutting construction red tape

1 December 2014

Chief Minister Adam Giles this morning met with the Government’s new Construction and Development Advisory Council which has begun considering reforms to reduce red tape.

“My Government understands that red tape reduction is a key priority for the construction industry and has established this Council to deliver direct feedback on steps to make the Territory a more attractive investment environment,” Mr Giles said.

The Council is chaired by former Administrator John Anictomatis and is expected to deliver its recommendations to government in June next year.

Council members have been appointed from major centres across the Territory, with experience in small and large businesses, property development, real estate, construction and as service providers to the industry.

“This is an opportunity to take a close and objective look at the way construction and development is regulated and see if we have our systems right to support the development of Northern Australia,” Mr Giles said.

“We’re talking to industry members directly because we want to hear about their red tape frustrations, whether they’re big or small.

“The Government has a strong appetite for red tape reform and has already begun or completed more than 200 red tape reduction initiatives since coming to Government.

“I look forward to seeing the Council’s formal recommendations and suggestions for ways we can streamline government processes.

“It is imperative that the Territory has the best possible regulatory environment as our economy and population base grows.”

Reforms so far in the construction and development sector so far include:

- Introducing an integrated building approval lodgement system. This allows electronic lodgement of building permits and occupancy permits thus reducing paperwork and removing the need to attend a government office.
- Allowing concurrent (rather than requiring sequential) assessment of planning scheme amendments (e.g. rezoning applications) and development assessments – shaving up to 3 months off approval times.

- Removing the requirement for developers to obtain a second clearance from service authorities at the time of unit titling for a subdivision, shaving weeks off the approval process.

- Issuing high risk work licences (scaffolding, forklift, dogging, rigging, crane operation and others) over the counter at Territory Business Centres – a time saving of up to 20 days.

- Establishing a One Stop Shop for development applications allowing developers and the public to access information online about the application process and current applications.

The Department of Business has a dedicated 1800 telephone number for businesses to contact the Business Advocate to discuss issues and delays they are encountering from any government agency.

That number is 1800 754 466. email: cuttingredtape@nt.gov.au

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