

DATE: 26 June 2006

EMBARGO: For immediate release

## NT Build warns – show us the money

Developers are being warned to pay a construction levy or face possible fines and worksite shut downs.

Thirty developers have already complied with the legislation and have notified NT Build of their projects. This will result in them paying a new levy that will see the majority of Territory construction workers paid for long service leave for the first time in the NT.

Many other developers are yet to notify NT Build of their projects and could face fines of up to \$55,000 or even worksite shut downs.

The NT Build Board, which oversees the new portable long service leave legislation, has declared an amnesty to allow developers to notify the Board of their projects and pay the levy without incurring extra interest penalties.

The 0.5 percent levy was introduced on July 1 last year as part of a package of reforms to improve the Territory's construction industry and attract more workers to the NT.

The compulsory levy on developers and owners in charge of construction applies to every construction and maintenance project where work commenced on site after 1 July 2005, with construction costs of more than \$200,000 - not including single residential homes.

Developers are reminded that time is running out for notifying NT Build of their levy liabilities before the amnesty on penalty interest expires on 30 June 2006.

NT Build registrar Theo Tsikouris said many small businesses may not realise they are covered by the new levy.

"A developer is just not classified as a big multi-national company or someone doing a big multi-story apartment building or refinery," Mr Tsikouris said. "A developer can also be a small family business building a duplex or a large industrial shed." Civil engineering works are also covered by the levy.

Mr Tsikouris said NT Build was funded entirely by the levy, which is paid by project developers not employers. Money raised is held and invested by NT Build for the workers.

"Response to the scheme in its first year of operation has been overwhelming. More than 5,000 construction workers and 200 employers had already registered with NT Build", Mr Tsikouris said.



street  
Units 32-33  
12 Charlton Court  
Stuart Park NT 0820  
post  
PO Box 36644  
Winnellie NT 0821  
general enquiries  
1300 795 855  
office phone  
8923 9300  
fax  
8923 9318  
web  
www.ntbuild.com.au  
email  
info@ntbuild.com.au  
abn  
16 851 173 952

The scheme allows construction workers, including sub-contractors who only supply labour, to accrue 13 weeks of long service leave over 10 years while working for more than one employer.

Mr Tsikouris said developers who need to pay the levy had until the amnesty ended on June 30 this year to notify the NT Build Board of their development and levy amount.

Under the legislation the NT Build Board could charge approximately 7.75 percent interest on late payments, and developers could face fines of between \$11,000 and \$55,000. If necessary a “stop work” notice could also be placed on a project.

Mr Tsikouris urged developers to do the “right thing” by notifying NT Build of their projects and pay the levy before the amnesty ended on June 30.

“If a developer doesn’t pay the levy and needs to, we will be monitoring building sites, building permits and planning notices and we will catch up with them,” he said.

Developers, employers and workers can find out about the NT Build long service scheme via the website [www.ntbuild.com.au](http://www.ntbuild.com.au) or contact 8923 9300.

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**Interview:** Theo Tsikouris, Registrar NT Build

**Contact:** 89239 300 or 0401 116 662

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**street**

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**email**

[info@ntbuild.com.au](mailto:info@ntbuild.com.au)

**abn**

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