

# Reducing Red Tape

## National Reform

In 2006, the Northern Territory, as part of the Council of Australian Governments, agreed to the National Reform Agenda, aimed at improving national productivity and capacity. The agenda includes a stream to remove inefficient regulation (red tape) and unnecessary compliance costs for businesses.

## Making Tax Compliance Simpler

From 1 July 2007, the cost to businesses of complying with stamp duty laws will be further reduced. Stamp duties on all types of guarantees and on grants of leases for nil or nominal rent will be abolished by the Territory Government.

Territory Revenue Office is also developing a secure online assessment and payment tool for stamp duties, and has released its online payroll tax returns system.

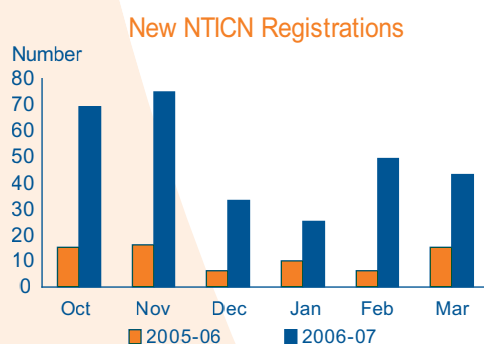
## Government Purchasing Arrangements

During 2006-07, the Northern Territory Government simplified its procurement processes with a focus on streamlining quote and tender procedures, and promoting industry development by encouraging new businesses to compete for Government work.

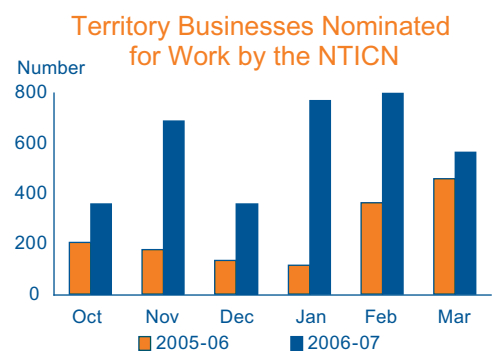
On 1 November 2006, after extensive consultation with industry, the Territory Government increased the threshold for public tenders from \$10 000 to \$50 000, reducing paperwork and time for businesses and government agencies.

Importantly, Government agencies consult with the Northern Territory Industry Capability Network (NTICN) to ensure that local businesses have the opportunity to compete for Government business.

Early results indicate a surge in businesses registering with the NTICN since the changes were introduced. There are positive flow-on effects for these businesses, as they can now also be put forward by the NTICN for non-Government work.



Source: NTICN



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