

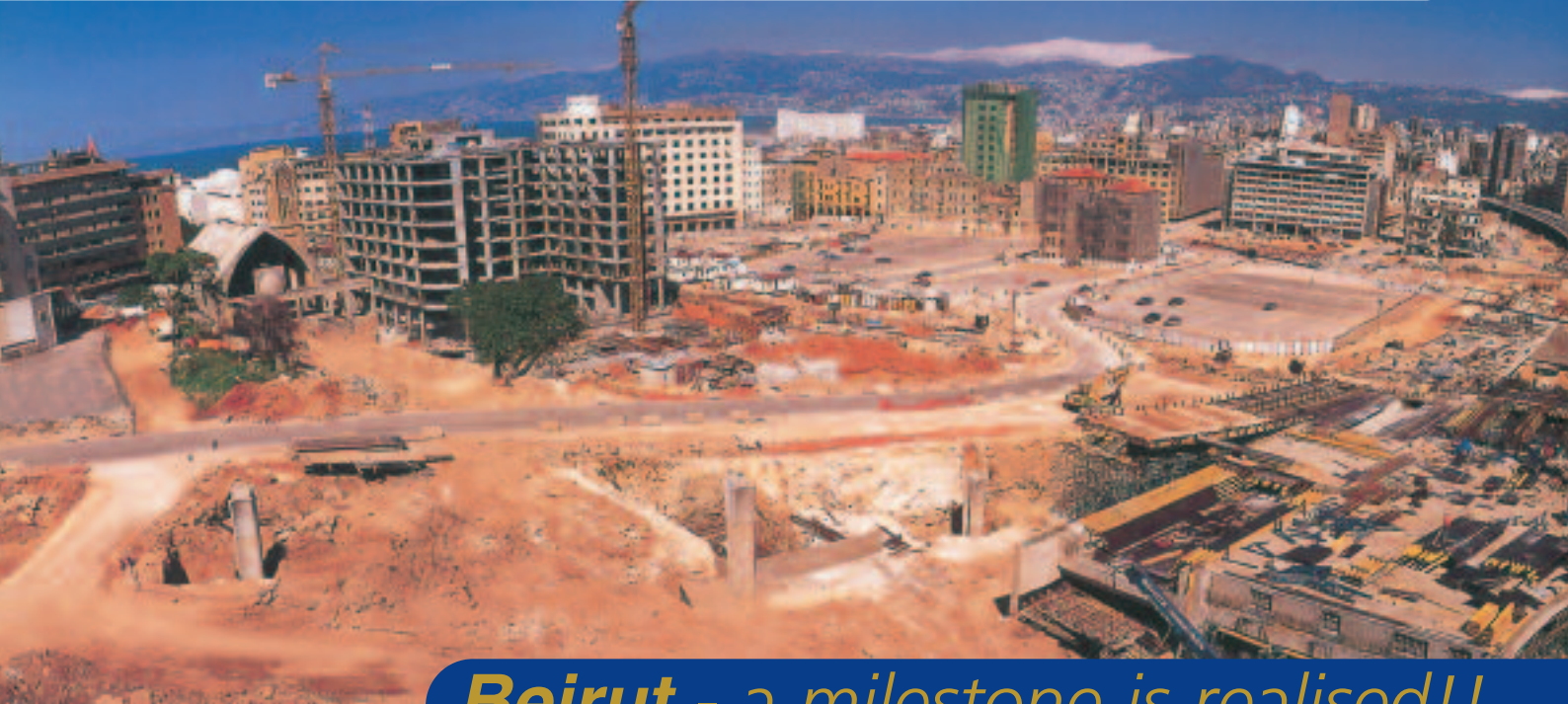
The Australian Lebanese
Chamber of Commerce Ltd

Chamber

Spring Issue • 2005

AUSTRALIAN LEBANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NEWS



Beirut - a milestone is realised!!



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Chamber

AUSTRALIAN LEBANESE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NEWS

In This Edition

A Word from the President	p3
Beirut Chamber applies past lesson	p4
Water Treatment	p7
Positive images of Lebanon	p8
Chamber hosts NAB CEO	p10
Lebanon Seeks Western aid	p13
Serious about Property Development	p14
Skiing in Lebanon	p16

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A Word from the President



Another year is nearly over and yet one feels that there is so much more work to be done or finished.

At the ALCC, we feel that the various activities held throughout the year have made a genuine contribution to the community and at the same time there is always room for improvement.

We have big plans for the coming year and will be informing our members and supporters about these plans in the very near future.

This year's annual awards dinner is very special as it is the Chamber's Twentieth year since it's foundation in 1985.

We pay tribute to its first President Mr Joe Gazal and all the founding members.

On behalf of the ALCC Board of Directors I wish everyone a very pleasant evening.

Joe Khattar
President ALCC

AUSTRALIAN LEBANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Board Members

Name	Title	Name	Title
Joe Khattar	President	Michael Symond	Director
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Nadia Obeid	Secretary	Adam Malouf	Director
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Beirut Chamber of Commerce chief applies past lessons

Ghazi Koraytem's experience at TMA serves well in understanding challenges faced by Lebanese companies

By Bechir Saade - Daily Star

Business in person

BEIRUT: Attaining the highest peaks of achievement can be a risky venture, when mediocrity sets in and forces one to feel the harsh effects of a free-fall from the greatest heights. Yet these experiences can serve as a useful lesson for future endeavors.

These could well be the type of feelings nurtured by the newly elected president of the Beirut Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture Ghazi Koraytem as he watches the Trans Mediterranean Airline (TMA) freight carrier drawing its last breaths, after having spent half of his life working to make the company a huge success.

As Koraytem waits to take over his position and starts fulfilling one of the most influential and demanding economic lobbying roles in the country, a look at his past experiences may serve well to understand the basic challenges that Lebanese companies have to meet.

Starting in 1958 and after finishing postgraduate studies in the management of large enterprise at the University of Munich, Koraytem worked his way up to the position of managing director of TMA cargo freight company in 1982.

"I was the first person responsible for getting the airline to operate in more than 60 countries," he said.

Eventually, between 1973 and 1975, TMA became the biggest cargo carrier in the world .

As the war unfolded, airlines stopped landing in Beirut, but TMA continued flying to the same destinations, so much so that there was an initial boost in profits, said Koraytem.

But soon enough, countries "where we had traffic lights started to reduce these rights until practically none were left." (Traffic lights are licenses given by governments that permits to airlines to operate in a specific country's airspace.)

As the war drew to a close, the company was sold, first to Roger Tamraz the chairman of Al-Mashreq bank, and then rescued from bankruptcy by Jet Holdings, which is



owned by the chairman of Banque Libano-Fran_aise, Farid Roufayel.

At the time, Koraytem said his group was one of the bidders and even though they put in a better offer, Roufayel got TMA for "a reason I still don't understand." In addition to that, the new owners had no experience in the airline industry and no plans to rescue the company from the abysmal situation it had sunk into according to Koraytem.

"Why somebody with no plan would buy a company is a big question mark for me."

The company, which was once the "first operator in the Arab world to go to the Far East, to reach Japan and the first to use Boeing 747s in the Middle East," was from this point on irremediably doomed to fail.

.....Continued

"It is unfortunate to see this company reach this point when you were part of what made it grow in the first place," he said.

But Koraytem did not remain idle but switched to something completely different in the industrial sector by becoming the general manager of SOLIVER, a company that produces glass containers.

Currently a member of the board, Koraytem managed "to make a profit as early as in the first six months of my arrival."

"The last program we had when I was a general manager was an investment of \$12 million" said Koraytem showing the level of credibility reached by the company and the confidence in its capacity to expand.

From these experiences Koraytem has learned valuable lessons to boost the Lebanese economy.

Accordingly his lobbying program for the Beirut Chamber will have as its priority the lowering of production costs for industry and other enterprises, and

the facilitation of the availability of credit in order to trigger growth.

At the heart of Koraytem's thinking is that the government should constantly strive to provide the best working environment for businesses.

Recently, the government made an agreement with Kuwait to buy gasoil at a discount price, in order to help the state-owned electricity company EDL reduce its ongoing debt.

Lebanese industrialists have complained strongly about being left out of this deal, and Koraytem has backed their arguments, saying "eventually the government has to work in all ways possible to supply the various Lebanese economic sectors with energy sources at the most affordable level."

Koraytem wants to make it an "obligation" for the government to include in their deals with energy suppliers sufficient quantities to serve the industrial sector.



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Water Treatment - Water Crisis and Management

Water treatment, desalination, recycling, reuse, water restrictions.... Are all terms we tend to hear more about now and for years to come. Local government, water authorities, public and media are all talking about water, its consumption and stock levels. It is no secret to say that it is a precious commodity for Australia and other regions in the world. It may come as a surprise to some to know that Australia is the driest continent on earth and water management play an intriguing part in our social structure. We are considered to be a large water user per capita according to the world standards and there is a strong campaign now to educate industries and domestic users to evaluate their water consumption practices.

It is essential to assess the status of water treatment aspects in Australia and define some of the parameters to clarify and simplify the concepts.

Currently the source of most drinking water treatment plants in Australia is surface water; we are collecting the water in catchments or dams and treat the water using a conventional process. Some remote towns pump the water directly from their local river. A conventional system consists of a basic process stream of sedimentation (settling), clarification followed by filtration then disinfection. The conventional system relies on chemical dosing to adjust the water chemistry and meet the World Health Organisation (WHO) standards and criteria. It is a low cost system in terms of capital, maintenance and operation. Given that the water chemistry typically does not change, the treatment process is relatively simple and reliable. In Australia, our water quality is very good and meets the WHO standards.

We all know about the effects of the drought on the three main capital cities, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. Our governments had no choice but to consider water restrictions to reduce our consumption and maintain a controlled supply for years to come until the drought is broken. It is evident that the public has been very responsive and cooperative and we have managed, according to local authorities, to reduce our domestic consumption by up to 50 % compared to the previous years.

All water authorities are nervous about the water consumption in Australia and they realize that agricultural and commercial applications constitute the bulk of the water users. The legislators put in strict guidelines for water treatment and categorised the water reuse scheme depending on the application and exposure to the environment and the public.

There is a stronger trend these days to polish the effluent

from our sewage treatment plants and put it to good use for industrial and agricultural applications. There are tens of successful applications in Australia of water reuse and recycling. It is a fact that water recycling in such applications reduced the loads and burdens on our current potable water stocks.

Whilst technologies exist to treat the effluent water to drinking water standards, the public perception remains negative and in general is not ready for it. However, all water treatment companies and water authorities are treating the water to the highest levels to reduce the disease risks and trialling the reliability of these technologies.

Technologies such as cloth media filtration, UV disinfection and membrane treatment are currently being used on many sites and applications in Australia. Applications for BHP, Caltex, paper mills and golf courses are good examples of the successful water reuse schemes.

Sydney Water engineers are about to turn the Rouse Hill scheme of dual water reticulation on to some suburbs in the Hills district. The water will be used to flush toilets, wash cars and irrigate gardens.

Other local councils have already implemented the water reuse scheme and use a stream of their highly polished sewage effluent to irrigate their golf courses, gardens or offer it back as irrigation water to the local farmers. It is likely that the public will become softer and receptive in years to come following the success stories of the current recycling/reuse schemes.

The latest buzz word is desalination. Australia is just about to enter into the desalination era. The water authorities in Perth have let the contract of the first desalination plant in Australia. It is early days to judge the success or failure of the desalination concept in Australia and understand real costs. The Perth plant is due to come on line in 2008. It is going to take between two to three years to assess the public reaction and impact on the water consumption rate, savings and quality.

Sydney Water is currently reviewing the impact of such a plant to their infrastructure. Desalination plants have advantages as well as disadvantages and I will be detailing the pro's and con's of the technology in my next article.

Maurice Doumit
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Ashkar: Positive image of Lebanon pays off

Hotel association president urges media to be more constructive in news coverage

BEIRUT: Promoting Lebanon as a tourist destination has always been the goal of those involved in the tourism industry. One way to reach out to the rest of the world is utilizing the media, such as satellite television and newspapers. But this task becomes increasingly difficult to achieve if the country is experiencing political turmoil. Pierre Achkar is one of those people who are keen to portray a positive image of Lebanon even if the odds against it are great. A negative portrayal of the country will scare away potential tourists while a positive approach will definitely pay off.

Achkar, the president of the Hotel Association in Lebanon, said that "the majority of countries show a minimum of decency with atrocities pictures they publish, this part of the world takes a malign pleasure to bring you the news with intestines dripping out of dead bodies. How do you expect us to fill our hotel rooms when what could have been potential clients now have such images in the back of their head?"

Still, despite the shaky year Lebanon had, Achkar along with the rest of the leading figures of the sectors expected a very bad tourist season. "We were surprised to find that as soon as there was a minimum of stability of 10 days, activity picked up," said Achkar adding, that this showed the capacity of the sector to quickly absorb.

He is also pleased to see Arab tourists returning to Lebanon in the months of August and September, a sign of growing confidence in the country.

According to official sources from the Tourism Ministry, the sector witnessed a decline of approximately 15

percent for the first six month of 2005. But Achkar differentiated between tourists that used hotels during their stay and those who had apartments or other facilities. "The occupancy rate for hotels dropped by 33 percent relative to last year. Some even closed such as Phoenicia (for two months)," said Achkar.

But political turmoil brought over 1000 journalists and this partially lifted up the downward trend, said Achkar, adding that even in bad times there is still some kind of function for the sector.

For Achkar, the real challenge is to switch from seasonal tourism to 12-month tourism.

"Beirut, in which conferences, official delegations, forum, exhibitions and other events take place throughout the year, is the only place in Lebanon where activity is spread throughout the year" said Achkar, hoping that all of Lebanon can become like its capital.

For now tourism in the mountains and around the sea are seasonal, and witness most of all, regional presence. For Achkar this is the most important and durable form of activity: "France for example has most of its tourists coming from Europe."

Not only that but for Achkar, "investment made in places like Bhamdoun and Aley are a signal of a solid commitment and faith in our country," adding that from real-estate projects to the construction of new hotels, these regions are witnessing rapid growth.

"My group is personally negotiating with a Kuwaiti to manage one hotel in Bhamdoun," said Achkar, underlining the continuing developments that are taking place in these regions.

Achkar is the owner of the Printania Hotel in Broumana and the Markazia Monroe suites, which is slowly spreading in the region.

"We have a hotel in Iraq, in Suleimaniyya, and two other projects to be built in Damascus are waiting to be signed."

But ultimately, "we should also reach out for world tourism if we hope to achieve 12-month tourism in all of Lebanon," said Achkar, adding that even Bhamdoun and Aley are seasonal destinations. For that to



.....Continued

happen, the government should increase the size of the budget allocated for the sector, and there should be a clear intention on behalf of the government but also on the part of Lebanese civil society and all the vehicles that channels the latter's thought to build a good image of the country.

The aim is to attract as many tourists as possible that come as part of large groups and are usually organized throughout the year to visit the whole country said Achkar. He added that these groups will not be specifically based in Beirut and will tend to choose random locations away from the city. For now, there are no such groups coming to Lebanon due to the political situation and other related issues.

Ecotourism that is already present in some parts of Lebanon could be a good starting point for diversifying tourist activity, attracting different types of clients and interests said Achkar.

And the sector holds other promising initiatives. "Currently you have 3000 hotel rooms that are being built in Lebanon," said Achkar adding that "every time you have a hotel being built somewhere, the region surrounding it will irremediably be developed."

This is the case for the recent \$300 million construction Hotel Le Royal in Dbayeh, and Habbour in Sin al-Fil.

"A hotel creates a location, and this triggers other investment in restaurants, apartments and other real estate activity," explains Achkar.

Bechir Saade - Daily Star



“RE-BUIDLING THE NAB SOME EARLY REFLECTIONS”

The Chamber hosts National Australia Bank CEO - Ahmed Fahour

The Australian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce hosted its Annual Corporate Luncheon on July 7th at Doltone House Function Centre, Jones Bay Wharf, Pyrmont. Guest Speaker, Mr Ahmed Fahour, Chief Executive Officer, National Australia Bank delivered a most interesting and captivating speech, giving the audience a feeling of great satisfaction and confidence.

The Master of Ceremonies John Malouf introduced the Guest Speaker, Mr Fahour and thanked him for making the commitment and sharing his time and wisdom with members and supporters of the Australian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce on the this occasion.

The President of the Australian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce, Mr Joe Khattar in his speech, welcomed everyone and called for greater interaction amongst members, sponsors, supporters of the ALCC. He highlighted the need to look for joint efforts to increase trade and co-operation between Australia and Lebanon.

Special ALCC Guests and friends Mr. Robert Naoum, Consul General of Lebanon, Mr Mazen Kabbara Consul of Lebanon, Minister for Housing Mr Joe Tripodi, Mr Eddie Obeid, MLC and a large audience of business leaders, media and other Community representatives were present.

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In his Vote of Thanks, Consul General, Mr Robert Naoum expressed everyone's appreciation of Mr Fahour's warmth and sincerity which was felt by the audience, calling on the Australian-Lebanese business community to continue this harmony and friendship as demonstrated at the gathering.

We thank you for your loyalty and enthusiasm, and we look forward in seeing you at future events of the ALCC.

**The Australian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce Ltd
October, 2005**



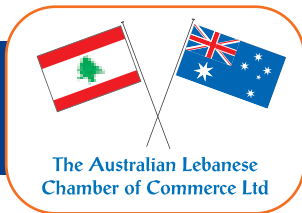


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Budget deficit slips as Lebanon seeks Western aid

BEIRUT: Lebanon's budget deficit slipped further in the first eight months of 2005 as the government sought help from the West to reduce the \$36 billion public debt.

According to a statement by the Finance Ministry, the budget deficit up to August of this year dropped to 24.69 percent (or \$1.066 billion) from 26.43 percent (or \$1.2 billion) in the same period of last year.

The ministry attributed the slight drop in the deficit to a decline in the expenditures which reached LL6.529 trillion in the first eight months compared to LL6.824 billion in the same period of last year.

But the government revenues have decreased to LL4.917 trillion in the first eight months of 2005.

Following the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri on February 14, imports, exports, tax collection and tourism all fell sharply in the first six months of the year.

The primary surplus, excluding the cost of debt servicing, in the same reporting period reached LL323 billion, a drop of 46 percent.

The cost of debt servicing, which represent the bulk of the government's spending, reached LL1.993 trillion in the first eight months of the year.

But the ministry said that funds transferred to the ailing state-owned electricity company has reached LL746 billion compared to LL444 billion in the same period of last year.

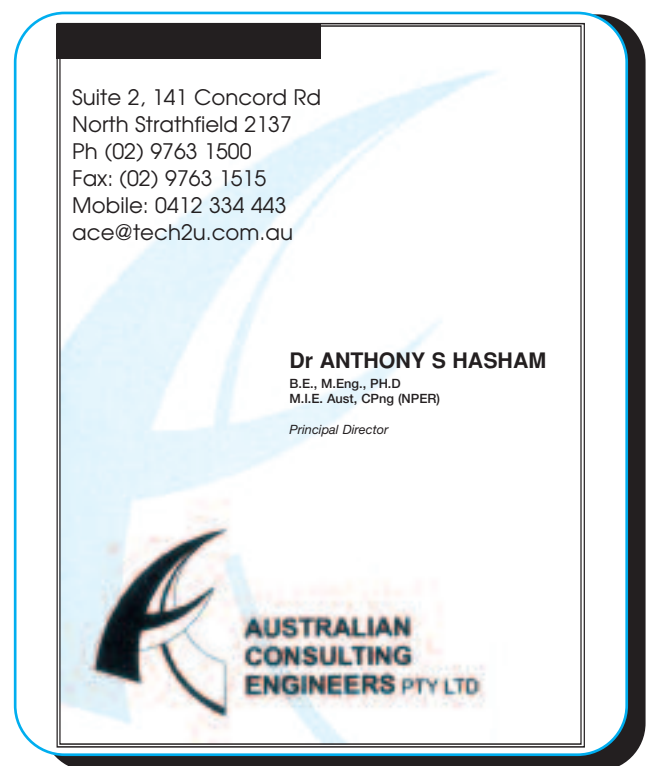
Electricite du Liban (EDL) is seen as one of the main sources of trouble for all successive governments as the total losses incurred by EDL has reached more than \$7 billion since 1994.

Prime Minister Fouad Siniora is currently holding talks with U.S. and European officials in New York in an attempt to secure soft loans to reduce Lebanon's public debt.

The donor states said that they will not help Lebanon if the government fails to adopt reform measures and privatize some of the state-owned assets such as telecom and electricity.

Sources said that the donor states will call for a special conference before the end of the year to secure aid to Lebanon.

Osama Habib - Daily Star Staff



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SERIOUS ABOUT PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT, BUT CONSCIOUS OF CASH FLOW?

IMPORTANT THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SECURITY OF PAYMENT ACT 1999 (NSW)

The Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act 1999 ("the Act") has become a very well known piece of legislation amongst the people and industries it directly affects – builders, developers, contractors, subcontractors, architects and engineers – the list goes on.

The then Minister for Public Works and Services, Morris Iemma, explained one particular aspect of the legislation as follows¹:

"Cash flow is the lifeblood of the construction industry. Final determination of disputes is often very time consuming and costly. We are determined that, pending final determination of all disputes, contractors and subcontractors should be able to obtain a prompt interim payment on account".

The Act provides a framework for the speedy recovery of progress payments by claimants (typically builders and subcontractors) carrying out construction work. It also provides for the adjudication of disputes in relation to progress claims.

However, the scheme of the Act, as amended in 2003, contains a raft of provisions which suggest an intention to severely restrict the scope of review of determinations made by adjudicators under the Act in relation to progress claims.

In the NSW Court of Appeal decision of *Brodyn Pty Limited v Davenport & Anor* [2004] NSWCA 394, his honour Justice Einstein recognised the problems created by the fast-track payment and adjudication scheme under the Act which could result in incorrect adjudication determinations and, consequently, judicial intervention. The following passage from his honour's judgment is instructive²:

"What the legislature has effectively achieved is a fast-track interim progress payment adjudication vehicle. That vehicle must necessarily give rise to many adjudication determinations which will simply be incorrect".

Those who are subject to the operation of the Act must realise that regardless of its faults, its provisions must be strictly complied with, or serious consequences may follow. In light of the restricted appeal rights available in respect of determinations by adjudicators, this article will address the areas that have caused distress to litigants, and how to avoid falling victim to the Act's fast-track interim progress payment adjudication vehicle.

THE ACT

In its present form, the Act boasts the following:

1. a right to payment - anyone undertaking building work may be entitled to be paid periodically according to the value of the work they have completed.
2. protection of that right - provisions which purport to preclude periodic payments, such as pay-when-paid provisions, are invalid.
3. pay now and argue later – adjudication and litigation have been tailored for speed to resolve and finally determine disputes quickly and efficiently.

The streamlined adjudication system has proved to be an attractive alternative to litigation, having handled over \$700 million worth of claims since 3 March 2003 - from a frugal \$250 dispute to a hefty \$68 million wrangle. Those affected by the Act need to know at least some of its basic provisions, and probably even more importantly, they need to know a lawyer who fully understands the Act and appreciates the impact it may have on the cash flow of your business.

The millions of dollars worth of progress claims that end up each year in the Supreme Court of New South Wales is evidence of the need for a greater awareness and sensitivity to the capabilities and limitations of the Act as it affects your business. This article is a guide to the most common payment pitfalls, from both the developer and the builder's perspective, and will assist you in understanding how to utilise the Act and to ensure that your business continues to prosper.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED DOES THE ACT APPLY TO YOU?

A common mistake made by people in the building and construction industry is the assumption that the Act does not apply to them. Such a mistake could prove fatal, as a failure to adhere to the strict timeframes dictated by the Act could result in a determination being made against a party to a dispute without having the opportunity to present its case.

Importantly, the Act applies to:

1. Building and construction work even if there is no contract. This does not mean no written contract - it means no contract whatsoever. If there is an arrangement or agreement with a builder or developer, the Act may apply.
2. People or companies who are overseas or interstate, so long as they are involved in construction in New South Wales.
3. Almost every type of activity associated with building and construction. A claim can be made by an electrician for fitting an alarm system, by a project manager or defects expert, or even by a petrol station for supplying fuel for a crane. A supplier of clay in China can serve a contractor on a New South Wales construction site with a progress claim, simply because the clay is used to manufacture tiles for roofing of a building being constructed in New South Wales.

If you are unsure whether the Act applies to you, obtain prompt legal advice.

THE EXCEPTIONS

The second most common error is the failure to be aware of, and understand, the exceptions contained in the Act. If the Act does not apply to you, and you do not address this matter from the outset of any dispute, thousands of dollars may be spent fighting a progress claim which could not legally be brought against you in the first place. It could work the other way around also – you might serve a progress claim when you are not entitled to and spend money on legal and other fees only to lose on a technicality raised by your opponent. Both of these situations must be avoided.

Keep in mind at least the following points:

1. The Act does not apply to residential building work (within the meaning of the Home Building Act 1989) on such part of any premises as the party for whom the work is carried out resides in or proposes to reside in.
2. An employee cannot make claim on an employer.
3. A claim cannot be made in certain complex situations, such as where progress payments are described in the contract as payments on account and the contract is terminated (see *Brewarrina Shire Council v Beckhaus Civil Pty Ltd and Anor* [2005] NSWCA 248).

There are various other exceptions contained in the Act, and if you have any doubt as to the application of the Act in your circumstances, obtain legal advice without delay.

DO YOU KNOW HOW THE ACT OPERATES FROM A PROCEDURAL POINT OF VIEW?

Thirdly, a great number of claims under the Act fail because of a lack of attention to the strict procedures contained in the Act. Relevantly:

1. If you fail to keep to the timetable in the Act you run a grave risk of losing the right to make or defend a claim. For example, if you wish to challenge a payment claim, you need to serve a payment schedule (that is, a response to a payment claim) within 10 business days after receiving a payment claim. If the dispute goes to adjudication, you have 5 business days to deliver a submission to the adjudicator. These timetables are not flexible and must be strictly adhered to.
2. If you do not raise an issue in a payment schedule you won't be able to raise it later. Accordingly, all relevant issues need to be considered prior to serving the payment schedule and given the above timeframes, action must be taken without delay.
3. If you receive a notice of acceptance of an adjudication application and it indicates "Inspection TBA" or "Conference of the parties TBA", don't assume that there will in fact be an inspection or conference. There have been numerous instances of parties holding back on providing submissions (or arguments) because of that type of phrase in an adjudication acceptance notice, and waiting for a conference which never eventuated, only to discover that the adjudicator has already reached a decision (see for example, *Air Dynamics Control & Services Contracting v Durham & Anor* [2005] NSWSC 366). Arguments that an adjudication should be set aside because one party thought they had a right to make further submissions have failed!
4. If you have made a claim and want to revise it, you will have to wait until the next payment period before submitting it.

If you have any doubt about the procedures dictated by the Act, don't delay in obtaining legal advice.

CHANGES TO THE ACT

The Act was amended on 3 March 2003 principally as a result of the number of adjudicator's determinations being appealed. As the aim of the Act is to fast track the adjudication of disputes, the NSW Parliament recognised the need to curtail appeal and review rights. As a result, the following issues were addressed by the amendments to the Act:

1. A progress payment cannot be avoided simply by appealing an adjudicator's determination. Previously, a claimant could only enforce payment by going to court and respondents were able to delay making a progress payment for long periods by raising defences and cross claims. As a result of the amendments to the Act, even if the adjudicator's decision is appealed, the claimant is entitled to receive the adjudicated amount unless an injunction is sought prior to the filing of the adjudicator's certificate. Appeal rights, however, are severely restricted and are generally only available when an adjudicator has made a fundamental error of law³. In other words, even if an adjudicator makes a mistake, and you are not successful as a result, you may not have the right to appeal the decision.
2. You may now demand a final, milestone or other one-off payment as a progress payment.
3. You may now strike or take possession of unfixed plant and materials if a payment isn't made.
4. You can now claim interest at 9% on any overdue payments.
5. Clauses making payment conditional on any event occurring (such as the provision of a superintendent's certificate) are now invalid.

Importantly, as appeal rights are severely restricted, it is important that your case is presented adequately at the first instance. In this regard, the point needs to be emphasised that compliance with the timetables contained in the Act is essential so that a case can be adequately prepared and comprehensive submissions drafted for the consideration of the adjudicator before a determination is made.

CONCLUSION

The Act has made and broken many businesses. Many have been caught off guard by its wide application (and crucial exceptions), and strict procedural requirements. But some have discovered a windfall, whether it is a right to payment which they did not realise they had, or a chance to avoid large periodic outlays through an adjudication system geared heavily in favour of the claimant.

So what is the difference between these two groups? Access to experienced and competent legal advice.

For More Information

The team at *Arraj Lawyers* can offer you the best advice and assistance in this area of the law.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Danny Arraj on (02) 9279 0288, or e-mail Danny.Arraj@arrajlawyers.com.au

DANNY ARRAJ, SENIOR PARTNER - ARRAJ LAWYERS
AND
JULIAN MELLICK, LAWYER – ARRAJ LAWYERS

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Amendment Bill, second reading speech in the Legislative Assembly on 12 November 2002
- ² *Brodyn Pty Limited t/as Time Cost and Quality v Phillip Davenport & Ors* [2003] NSWSC 1019
- ³ See generally the case of *Brodyn Pty Limited t/as Time Cost and Quality v Phillip Davenport & Ors* [2003] NSWSC 1019

Skiing on the slopes of the Lebanese Mountains

The Ski season generally runs from late November to late March, and sometimes a bit longer than that.

This winter sport began in Lebanon at the turn of the Century, before the availability of ski lifts. The French Army established the first ski school in 1935, known as the Cedar's Resort. The Army school's most enduring contribution was the generation of expert Lebanese skiers, who formed the first Olympic Team, and later played a key role in spreading ski-fever throughout the Country.

Modern facilities enabled the ski resorts in Lebanon to be recognised as a major haven for Tourists. In the 1960's, a Ski Federation and Ski Committee was formed, headed by the Council of Tourism, where European Instructors helped organise International Competitions. Travel Agents and Tour Operators played a key-role in publicising Lebanon 's unique weather, where one could snow ski in the morning and water ski in the afternoon.

During the war, skiing slowed down, but never stopped, and now this sport is developing at a very fast pace. Winter resorts are adding new facilities and accommodation to meet world standards. Other sports, like Jet Skiing and Snow boarding are being practiced as well. The major resorts for skiing are The Cedars (The oldest); followed by Faraya and Laqlouk.



All the resorts run National and International Ski Competitions, which have available special instructors, equipment rentals, rescue and Red Cross services.

For those interested in visiting Lebanon during the winter season, and are in need of any advice/guidance, please feel free to contact The Australian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce.

Michael Rizk

Head of Trade Relations – ALCC



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Australian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce

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