



Legal & Commercial

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New contract for National Precast Members

Sean O'Sullivan from Moray & Agnew Lawyers is drafting an industry contract for National Precast Members.

The document is being prepared to address typical issues that precast contractors face, that are not adequately addressed in standard form contracts. Members will be able to use this document within smaller contracts and as a negotiating start point in larger contracts.

A first draft was circulated in August 2017 and a second draft incorporating feedback is currently being developed and is expected to be completed mid 2018.

Australian-first mandatory labour hire laws now in effect

Queensland has become the first state to establish a licensing scheme for labour hire companies. The scheme sets minimum standards for labour hire providers, ensuring workers will now have adequate protection.

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Giving engineers a cutting edge

The Victorian Government is introducing a mandatory registration scheme for engineers. The new scheme aims to ensure highly-qualified and experienced engineers develop and oversee the state's most important projects.

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What does the 2018 federal budget have in store?

The Federal Government has launched its bid for re-election with a budget that focuses on tax relief, infrastructure commitments and business investment.

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ACIF forecasts: two up and two down

Industry forecasts released by Australian Construction Industry Forum (ACIF) show an upturn for engineering construction and non-residential building categories, and a downturn for residential and heavy industry mining.

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Commercial and retail cranes keeping Australian construction steady

A drop in the number of residential cranes has been offset by a rise in commercial and retail crane construction use. The RLB Crane Index Q2 2018 highlights the stable condition of Australia's construction industry.

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Construction sector strengthens as non-residential work soars

Activity levels across Australia's construction sector continue to strengthen, underpinned by surging growth in non-residential work, according to the latest Australian Performance of Construction Index.

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Australia's road and rail boom

While road construction is expected to reach its peak in the current financial year, a multi-year boom now underway in rail is not expected to peak until 2023/24.

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Queensland construction companies at high risk of insolvency

Insolvency experts have cautioned that there are tough times ahead for Queensland-based construction companies. Despite the construction industry experiencing steady growth in 2018, the benefits may not be shared among smaller construction service businesses. [Read more](#)

Developers and builders warned to allow for cost blowouts

As construction activity and employment soar to record highs, pressures are emerging as prices of steel and concrete rise and the cost and availability of some trades is drawn into question.

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Water falling through the concrete cracks (US)

Hundreds of cracks have formed on two concrete platforms at a five-year-old Sacramento (US) project, allowing water to seep into passenger tunnels.

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