



## FACT SHEET

### Frequently Asked Questions

## WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN A BUILDING OR CONTRACT DISPUTE?

The importance of a contract document as a basis for undertaking construction is frequently underestimated.

### **Building Contract Disputes - Master Builders Assoc or Defined Project**

Essentially building contracts fall into the category of a standard format such as the Master Builders Association or those drafted specifically for a defined project. It is also possible that a standard contract can be extended by, for example, the use of schedules.

Whatever the form of contract it is important that the construction documentation to which the contract relates is adequate in terms of detail and content. It is also essential that the contract clearly covers typical problem areas such as construction time and extensions, variations, defects, disputes and contract administration.

Industry standard contracts frequently have a tendency to favour the organization who has written the contract.

### **Building Contract or Dispute - The Process**

The process of completing building contracts should involve both the builder and the owner receiving a complete set of documents including architectural and engineering drawings and specifications, development approval conditions, and the contract for construction. These documents should be stored in a safe location and not used on site.

### **Finding a Solution to a Building Contract or Dispute**

Disputes involving building work can be complicated, time consuming and expensive in terms of finding a solution.

Most contracts specify the procedure for dispute resolution either by arbitration or civil litigation. There are also directions as to how to terminate a contract.