



Update - May 2016

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Employment Growth

During the past eighteen months we have been experiencing a significant increase in construction activity, this combined with a large number of projects in the planning or approval stage and a steady housing sector augurs well for the industry.

Obviously this is good news for the economy and Tasmania generally, however the downside is whether we can meet the demand for skilled labour, particularly where demand increases rapidly. Secondly, are we able to meet the increased demand for skilled labour to maximize its impact on the number of unemployed Tasmanians.

In June 2014 the industry employed 11,051 employees for whom we received long service contributions, as of April 2016 this number had grown to 11,822 an increase of 7.5 percent. During the same period Building Approvals grew from \$1,279.1 million per annum to \$1,834.65 million to March 2016 which translates to an annualised rate of \$2,446.2 million.

TasBuild recorded the industry employment peak in June 2010 at 12,682 workers, at that time building approvals totalled \$1,609.0 million. In general terms Tasmania has the capacity to provide 12,500 skilled workers. The rate and value of increasing building activity will create a demand in advance of that number and action needs to be taken to ensure that unemployed Tasmanians can be utilised to make up the shortfall.

The answer to this problem may in fact be found in another industry problem, that is the high non-completion rate of apprentices or the out of trade apprentices. This group of industry ex-pats could allow employers to grow their workforce quickly to address the increase demand in building work; “A WIN WIN” for everyone.

Chris Atkins CEO

Invoice and Statement Information

It appears that a number of Employers are misreading TasBuild statements, particularly where a negative amount is shown on these documents.

Where a TasBuild issued statement shows an amount as such; **-\$500.00** it means that a payment has been received and where the “**Closing Balance**” shows **-\$500.00** it means that your account is in credit, that is you have over paid the amount owed to TasBuild.

Where your account is in this position you can request a credit or you can use this amount to offset your next invoice. This means simply short paying your next invoice by the amount of the credit on your statement.

If you are unsure about any account related matters please call any of the TasBuild staff on 03 6294 0807 who will be only too happy to assist you with your enquiry.

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Entitlement Statistics for: April 2016

- Total entitlements paid: 44
- Total value of entitlements paid: **\$344,518.26**
- Average weekly rate paid for all entitlements: **\$1,123.13**
- Average weekly rates paid to specific trades:

Boilermaker Welder:	\$1,005.89
Bricklayer:	\$768.00
Carpenter:	\$1,278.03
Electrician:	\$1,071.99
Glazier:	\$850.46
Labourer:	\$1,121.81
Landscaper:	\$1,026.00
Painter:	\$1230.00
Plant Oper:	\$1,014.75
Plasterer:	\$1,200.00
Refrig Mech:	\$1,373.10
Rigger/Scaff:	\$826.53
Road maker:	\$1,061.76
Sheet metal Wkr:	\$1,040.69

The weekly rates are an average of the rates actually paid by TasBuild to employees taking an entitlement during the subject month. The weekly rates paid have been calculated in accordance with the requirements of the Act and the Rules of the Fund. In general terms the rates represent the ordinary weekly amount payable to the employee and do not include site specific or other various compensatory allowances.

Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Education

Due to a number of conflicting appointments and availability issues the ESG Breakfast Presentation has been deferred to a date in July.

Once arrangements have been finalised those who have expressed an interest in attending this free breakfast and presentation will be contacted.

If you have not already registered , it is not too late.

TasBuild contributors are able to attend the presentation at no cost, if you are interested in attending please email your expression of interest to chris@tasbuild.com.au.

TasBuild Payments by Direct Debit

TasBuild is exploring the benefits for both TasBuild and Employers that are available from the Direct Debit system of account payments.

The Direct Debit system of payments is easy, takes the worry out of missing payment deadlines and saves you money.

To date a number of employers have expressed an interest in using the Direct Debit payment process, however to make it feasible we need more employers to commit to making payments by Direct Debit.

To register your interest in the **Direct Debit** option please send an **email** to: secretary@tasbuild.com.au.

Commonwealth Account Closure

Employers are advised that the TasBuild Account held at the **Commonwealth Bank** will be **closed** effective from **01 June 2016**.

As a consequence payments made to this account after that date are likely to be rejected.

Our new account details are:

Account Name: TasBuild Limited

Bank: ANZ

BSB Number: 017-318

Account Number: 2203 14335.

These details are also included on the invoices issued by TasBuild. Please adjust your records to ensure the above details are recorded.

The information contained in this Update is of a general nature and does not constitute legal advice. We encourage you to seek your own professional advice to find out how the Construction Industry (Long Service) Act applies to you.