

# *CCA Handbook, Making the Construction Contracts Act work.*

Peter Degerholm

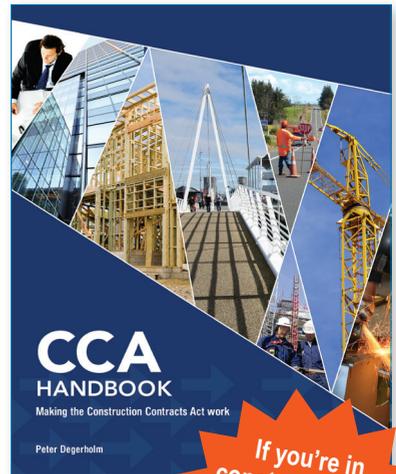
## **Why the Construction Contracts Act matters**

The Construction Contracts Act 2002 (CCA) assures cashflow in the New Zealand construction industry, and affects all owners (residential or commercial), developers, builders, subcontractors, and consultants.

When a major residential building company collapsed, reportedly owing its labour-only builders, subcontractors and suppliers around \$15 million, one commentator observed that “the prudent guys wouldn’t have been working for [the building company] if they weren’t getting paid”. He was referring to those who dared to exercise their rights under the CCA – enforcing debts, adjudicating disputes, and suspending work. The reported amounts owed to some creditors of the failed company suggest that their debts had accumulated over a long period, and that they had not exercised those rights.

Although the CCA has been in force for almost 13 years, it is not widely understood. The *CCA Handbook* aims to address that. It explains in plain English how the CCA payment, adjudication and enforcement provisions achieve cash flow and resolve disputes. It includes a copy of the legislation and details of changes under the Construction Contracts Amendment Act 2015, the impact on professionals from 1 September 2016, and a radical new retention regime which comes into force on 31 March 2017.

If you’re in construction, the *CCA Handbook* should be in your business toolkit.



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## **About the author**

Peter Degerholm (MMgmt (Disp Res) Reg QS FNZIQS FAMINZ (Arb, Med) MRICS) is an adjudicator, arbitrator and mediator, with a background in quantity surveying. His involvement in the CCA started in 1996 when he was a lobbyist for security of payment. He was closely involved in shaping both the principal Act and the Amendment Act, and has practised nationally in construction dispute resolution, dispute prevention and contracts education for over 15 years.

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RRP \$65.00, ISBN 978-0-9922603-5-4.

Canadian wire bound, soft cover, B5, 212 pages. First published April 2016

Writes Hill Press Ltd, PO Box 23 032, Wellington  
ccahandbook.co.nz • www.writeshillpress.co.nz

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