

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Stamp Duty Charge

During last week I announced a stamp duty charge that will have a positive effect on the already booming real estate industry in the Northern Territory.

The Government has decided the payment of stamp duty for properties purchased "off the plan" can be deferred.

This decision is seen as provided some relief to buyers who in the past have been required to not only pay the deposit but also the stamp duty at the time they enter the contract.

At the moment, we are working through certain safeguards which need to be put in place. These safeguards could include holding the document in the tax office or nominal stamping on the execution of the contract with the full payment of stamp duty deferred until the transfer of the title.

The safeguards will be in place expeditiously.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact my office or the Commissioner of Taxes, Dave Read, on 897918.

*Barry Coulter
Treasurer*

Northern Territory Government

Commonwealth Secretariat

Having, just taken up my duties as Director, I wish to be sure that you are informed of the fact, and of our intention as a Division to continue and, if possible to extend, the close contact and services given during my predecessor, Jeremy Pope's tenure of office.

Both the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Cyprus and the Mauritius Law Ministers Meeting underlined the growing expectations of the Commonwealth association, including the Secretariat. In particu-

lar, building on the 1991 Harare Declaration, members look forward to the realisation of the "essential ingredients of the Commonwealth fundamental political values". Many of these ingredients" have a strong legal flavour, and we as a Division, are very conscious of our obligation to meet those expectations.

In order to do so, we will continue to need the best information on the thoughts, insights and needs of our Commonwealth colleagues: Ministers. Law officers, judicial officers, private practitioners and legal educators. To that end, we look forward to learning, from you, what we can do, and do better, for you.

We are, as you are aware a small band, with finite resources, but I wish to reassure you that our objective remains to achieve the maximum result possible.

I look forward to meeting you personally, either for the first time or once again, and in the meanwhile to hearing from you.

(Any comments on above may be sent to the Director, Commonwealth Law Bulletin, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5HX UK)

*Reg Austin
Director*

*Legal and Constitutional
Affairs Division*



SA AGENCY WORK

GROPE HAMILTON, a City based law firm, is available to undertake agency work in most litigious and non-litigious legal areas.

Contact: Mark Hamilton
Telephone (08) 232 4767
Facsimile (08) 232 5045

GROPE HAMILTON
ADC Building
83 Pirie Street ADELAIDE



Northern Territory University

The Northern Territory University Faculty of Law has published a book called "*Turning the Tide*" which consists of papers presented at a conference in July 1993 on indigenous peoples and sea rights.

Copies cost \$25 including postage and can be purchased by sending a cheque to:

Faculty of law
Northern Territory University
PO Box 40146
CASUARINA NT 0811

High Court Rules (Amendment) - order 69A

The Deputy Registrar of the High court of Australia has issued a reminder that the following amendment came into operation on 11 February 1994.

1. *Commencement*
 - 1.1 These Rules commence on 1 February 1994.
2. *Amendment*
 - 2.1 The High Court Rules are amended as set out in these Rules.
3. *Order 69A, rule 11 (Abandonment of Application by delay)*
 - 3.1 Subrule 11 (1) Omit "subrule (6)", Substitute "subrule (8)"

*Nicola Morris
Deputy Registrar
High Court of Australia*