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Bid to cut cost of disputes

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A TASKFORCE has been set up with the aim of saving the Australian construction industry hundreds of millions of dollars lost through disputes every year.

The nationwide dispute avoidance taskforce has been established by the Co-operative Research Centre for Construction Innovation.

It brings together a variety of industry players including construction companies, design consultants, industry groups and universities. The taskforce includes former building and construction industry royal commissioner Terence Cole.

CRC for Construction Innovation CEO Keith Hampson said with the value of construction projects in Australia approaching \$100 billion a year, it was a vital initiative.

Taskforce chairman Tony Barry said the taskforce hoped to identify the root causes of disputes and develop practical strategies to avoid them.

He said there was a lot of speculation about how much disputes on construction projects cost, but no real hard numbers.

Teams at both RMIT in Melbourne and Curtin University of Technology in Perth have begun detailed research and interviews with industry representatives nationally.