# Keep construction projects on time and budget – 5 critical steps

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**MYOB** Advanced
**CONSTRUCTION EDITION**

# Overview

You'll know that major issues affecting the construction industry tend to be interlinked. Businesses in this sector are too often relying on manual or disconnected management tools that can bring many challenges affecting the workforce, project management and client experiences.

One of the major challenges faced by the construction industry are projects that stretch timelines and budgets. Delayed schedules are so common, they can be seen to be the norm, not the exception.

That can erode trust, future business prospects and that all-important profit margin. So, what can you do? The good news is that often, working to solve just one of these issues will create a positive flow-on effect across the other challenges. At the heart of any solution, you'll find a cloud management platform – often called business management software – designed especially for the construction industry. Here's how a platform like this could be what your construction business is missing.

# 1 Connect teams and increase collaboration

Anyone working in the construction industry will know that fragmented teams contribute significantly to a variety of issues. On-site and office teams can take an almost adversarial approach to communication, collaboration and information sharing. This doesn't just create a less-than-friendly work environment, it can also cause organisational dysfunction that holds projects up, stifles innovation, increases errors and accidents and can unknowingly impact profits.

Departmental silos often mean teams don't understand how their work contributes to the project, or how it might affect other departments. The same goes for contractors who may not understand the bigger picture, so stick to doing just their 'job'. Inevitably, things fall through the gaps.

A cloud management platform for construction solves these issues by facilitating information sharing and communication. Teams can work together to resolve issues; managers can move seamlessly between on-site and the office and everyone – even contractors – will access the same up-to-date information. This gives people an understanding of how their work affects colleagues and the wider project, which can increase job satisfaction, empathy and a better workflow

# 2 Solve issues faster with real-time visibility

Siloing of departments and disjointed systems mean information is buried. Accessing a true understanding of the state of the project can require hours – or days – of manual data management, as some teams collate information into hard-to-read spreadsheets or disparate tools. Aside from absorbing hours that could be more valuably spent elsewhere, by the time the data gets to management, it can be weeks out of date – and with the increased risk of human error, isn't guaranteed to be accurate. With only a retrospective view of the project, management relies on gut-feel and guesses, not solid data, making it almost impossible to catch and respond to issues quickly.

By replacing those disjointed systems with a cloud management software platform for construction, the picture changes dramatically. With all information feeding into the system, you'll have real-time oversight of every element of your project at every stage – from anywhere. This lets you identify issues early and make contingency plans if you suspect things are heading off-track. It's the information you need to make better-informed decisions about budget, avoid costly errors and hold-ups, and keep an eye on the progress of each stage to improve management timelines.

With real-time insights into project costs, you can also jump on potential budget overruns early and work with the client to find a solution.

# 3 Keep clients constantly up to date

Keeping your clients updated throughout the project is a critical – and often overlooked – part of keeping construction projects on time and budget. Without timely updates, clients are ambushed by timing and budget issues that have already spiralled out of control. This causes frustration, and because of the delay in communication, clients are presented with diminished options for resolving the issues. There's also a risk that they'll delay progress while they seek approvals or make decisions about next steps.

A cloud management platform specifically designed for construction businesses can be instrumental in streamlining that communication by giving clients secure access to the relevant areas. With real-time information, they'll understand what decisions need to be made and when and are forewarned about any potential hurdles. This means they can work with you to keep things ticking along, choosing between options, seeking additional funding or helping to reduce scope.

The integrated cloud platform will also give you the timely access you need to update clients, manage expectations and ensure you always have the correct answers.

# 4 Accurately estimate and forecast project costs

Of course, the key to delivering projects on time and within budget is to ensure the timelines and budget are correct in the first place. With so many factors at play, larger construction projects can be at risk of inaccurate budgeting. While expert and experienced team members can help guide this process, nothing can replace real data.

That's what cloud management software for construction delivers. Built-in benchmarks and detailed job costs information will help accurately estimate future jobs and ensure you're factoring everything in.

As you use a cloud management platform for construction, your project quoting will become more accurate, with insights collected from past projects fed through into the estimates.

# 5 Automate and streamline to keep costs down

Many construction teams use multiple software systems, alongside spreadsheets and other manual options, to manage different aspects of their work. That doesn't just create complicated workflows, it's also a recipe for unnecessary manual work, errors, delays and rework. Many of these systems won't be integrated – teams will have to move between systems throughout their day. Getting an overarching view will be almost impossible without time-consuming manual data consolidation. It also means that crucial information could be buried in pieces of paper or inaccessible systems.

Additionally, disconnected systems make automation almost impossible.

By contrast, a cloud management platform designed for the construction industry, lets you automate manual tasks or whole workflows, streamlining administrative work and saving time and money. It frees your team to focus on tasks that keep the project running smoothly and within budget. Automation also all but eliminates errors, so your financial reporting gives you reliable insights into keeping your current project to the estimated budget.

# Build a reputation for delivering on time, on budget construction projects

Construction projects which run over time and budget is a common challenge faced by many construction companies. But it doesn't have to be the case for you. By harnessing the power of a cloud management platform for construction you'll have the timely information, automation and integration you need to set yourself apart from competitors. You'll have timelines and budgets well in hand with more accurate quoting, reduced errors with better communication, and the visibility to keep clients in the loop and catch and solve issues early.

Automated processes and workflows will keep busy work to a minimum, unlocking more analytical power in your team. The many-pronged benefits can create an upwards spiral of efficiency and accuracy, and ultimately, projects delivered within time and budget.

Get in touch to learn how you could get your project timelines, quoting and budgets under control with MYOB Advanced Construction Edition.

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