

## **GOVERNMENT URGED TO SHARE VISION FOR SEIZING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

Consult Australia officially launched its new report, *Seizing the Sustainability Advantage* at an event in Melbourne earlier today.

*Seizing the Sustainability Advantage* provides a blueprint for ambitious governance reform, including the integration of existing sustainability policies and programs currently fragmented across different areas of government, portfolios and agencies.

The independent report has been developed in consultation with leading specialists from Australia's top consulting firms in engineering, design, planning and project development for the built and natural environment.

Consult Australia Chief Executive Officer, Megan Motto said *Seizing the Sustainability Advantage* will be used to drive practical action by governments to mitigate the risks of climate change and help ensure Australia's ongoing economic competitiveness.

The report's key recommendations include the introduction of a National Sustainability Framework to create a cohesive agenda for sustainability operating across governments.

It also proposes a 12 month deadline for the introduction of a carbon price and recommends the establishment of a Commission for a Sustainable Australia (CSA) to provide a vehicle for collaboration and alignment between government, industry and the community.

Other recommendations include a National Sustainability Framework to create a cohesive sustainability agenda across governments, and a nationally consistent adaptation plan to protect Australia against the threat of climate change and help manage other forecast demographic and environmental shifts.

*Seizing the Sustainability Advantage* pushes for the development and continued implementation of policies to support the efficient use of water, waste and energy resources. This would include a National White Certificate Scheme and long-term support for green depreciation of investments to improve the efficiency of existing building stock.

Consult Australia Chief Executive Officer, Megan Motto said *Seizing the Sustainability Advantage* takes a holistic approach to achieving sustainability, combining new and existing recommendations.

"The need for immediate action to improve the efficiency of our economy, mitigate climate change and adapt to demographic and environmental change is clear," said Ms Motto.

"Strong leadership is required to drive practical action by governments in the short, medium and long term to ensure Australia's ongoing competitiveness.

"Consult Australia looks forward to ongoing discussions with government, industry and the broader community to discuss how the recommendations submitted in *Seizing the Sustainability Advantage* might be implemented and what further changes are required in the months and years ahead."

### **Ends**

23 February 2011

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Cathy Mitchell on 9922 4711 / 0415 719 428

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **23 FEBRUARY 2011**



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### **ABOUT CONSULT AUSTRALIA**

*Consult Australia (formerly the Association of Consulting Engineers Australia) is the peak industry body representing consulting companies that provide professional services to the built and natural environment. These services include design, engineering, technology and management solutions for individual consumers through to major companies in the private and public sector including local, state and federal governments. Consult Australia represents over 250 companies, from large multidisciplinary corporations to small niche practices, collectively employing over 50,000 staff.*