

CONSULT AUSTRALIA GIVES THUMBS UP TO INVESTIGATION INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

Consult Australia applauds today's announcement that an Independent Local Government Review Panel will be formed to investigate and identify options for local government reform in New South Wales.

Announced by Local Government Minister Don Page, the formation of the panel marks a critical step towards best practice local government critical to delivering better cities in NSW.

Consult Australia's Chief Executive Officer, Megan Motto said that the formation of the panel is long overdue.

"The long infrastructure delivery delays we see in New South Wales and indeed across Australia as a whole impedes the productivity and liveability of our nation," she said.

"Reform to governance models, structural arrangements and boundary changes marks a step towards unlocking the ability of local government to accurately represent and service their communities.

"More efficient local government will also improve our consulting industry's ability to deliver the infrastructure Australia needs."

Consult Australia has long advocated for reform to support local government's ability to be more efficient and effective and to identify and achieve best-practice.

In its 2011 thought-leadership report, *Tomorrow's Cities Today*, Consult Australia called for a Productivity Commission review of what constitutes best-practice local government in Australia's major cities.

"It is great to see NSW now taking a lead in identifying best practice local government. In the longer term it is important that this review leads to real change in governance in NSW for the benefit of our communities," said Ms Motto.

"Local governments have declared their three greatest challenges are infrastructure and asset management, financial sustainability, and coping with the changing nature of their populations and demographics.

"I congratulate Minister Page in his acknowledgement of these challenges and in his preparedness to embark on a path to reform.

"Consult Australia looks forward to continued momentum in this space."

Ends

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MEDIA RELEASE



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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact PR & Policy Coordinator, Gillian O'Young on (02) 9922 4711 or via email at gillian@consultaustalia.com.au.

ABOUT CONSULT AUSTRALIA

Consult Australia is the association for professional services firms within the built and natural environment; influencing policy, creating value and promoting excellence.

As an association, Consult Australia's primary focus is on improving the commercial environment for its members and raising standards across the industry.

Consult Australia's member firms services include, but are not limited to: design; architecture; technology; engineering; planning; landscape architecture; surveying; cost consulting (quantity surveyors); project management; and management solutions. The Association represent some of the industry's biggest players in this space with its member firms collectively employing more than 50,000 staff.