

## ENGINEERING INDUSTRY LEADERS PROVE THEY'RE NOT ALL TALK

Leaders from Australia's largest engineering consultancy firms will take a landmark step towards addressing the gender diversity issue tomorrow with the first meeting of trade association, Consult Australia's Champions of Change initiative.

The Champions of Change program brings together CEOs and other leaders from Australia's largest engineering consultancy firms to develop and drive practical initiatives to achieve greater gender diversity within the industry's notoriously male-dominated workforce.

The group's primary objective is to ensure engineering and related fields are attractive to prospective employees from all walks of life, including women with aspirations to progress up the career ladder.

Hyder Consulting Managing Director Australasia, Greg Steele believes the initiative will be a catalyst for genuine change, particularly given the buy-in from senior managers including Pitt & Sherry Managing Director, John Pitt and Parsons Brinckerhoff Director of Technical Service – Global Mining, Glenn Thornton.

"If we are going to make headway towards achieving workforce diversity, there has to be visible leadership from the top," said Mr Steele.

"The Champions of Change initiative is by far the most ambitious and high profile step the industry has taken towards successfully addressing this issue to date."

The Australian Human Rights Commission Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick is supportive of the Champions of Change program, which is inspired by the Commissioner's Male Champions of Change, and will attend tomorrow's meeting.

This is the second major move by the industry, which earlier this year underwent a critical examination of its own workplaces in order to identify best practice for the development of Consult Australia's *Diverse Approaches* report.

Earlier this year Consult Australia Chief Executive Officer, Megan Motto put the onus on CEOs and firm leaders to adopt the recommendations outlined in *Diverse Approaches* and champion the commitment to improving diversity within the workforce.

"Before this group, our industry simply has not had a cohesive approach to address this issue, nor has it had buy-in from all the players such a transformation needs," said Ms Motto.

"Consult Australia's Champions of Change is critical to ensuring this transformation becomes a reality."

**Ends**

9 July 2012

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Director of Marketing, Cathy Mitchell on (02) 9922 4711 or via email at [cathy@consultaustalia.com.au](mailto:cathy@consultaustalia.com.au).



## MEDIA RELEASE

Driving Business Success for Consulting Firms in the Built and Natural Environment

### **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.*