

INDUSTRY CALLS FOR ENGINEERING INNOVATION PRECINCT

In response to the Government's *A Plan for Australian jobs*, industry association, Consult Australia has called for the establishment of an Innovation Precinct for engineering and related professional services.

Consult Australia's Chief Executive Officer, Megan Motto made reference to the built environment consulting industry's 240,000 employees and its forecast 2014/15 revenue of \$40.5 billion to highlight the critical role it plays in the Australian economy.

"It is critical that the Government includes engineering and related industries in those innovation precincts to be announced in the year ahead," said Ms Motto.

"This would mark a welcome and necessary step towards giving due recognition to the vital role the industry plays in Australian innovation, productivity and competitiveness."

Consult Australia has applauded the additional support that smaller and medium sized firms will receive from *A Plan for Australian jobs*.

"Half of our industry is made up of sole practitioners and of the remainder, 93 per cent are small firms so any support for these businesses to participate in major projects is a welcome initiative."

Ms Motto has also congratulated former Chief Executive of member firm Worley Parsons, John Grill on his appointment as Chair of the National Precincts Board.

"Mr Grill is well placed to help drive real benefits for industry and the wider economy through a more collaborative approach between the business and research communities," said Ms Motto.

"Through these announcements the Government has rightly focused on delivering wider economic benefits for infrastructure and resources projects, and is seeking a stronger role for professional services through the establishment of a Services Leaders Group.

"Our industry will be closely following this issue and we look forward to welcoming in a new engineering and related professional services Innovation Precinct in the year ahead."

Ends

18 February 2013

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 leading not-for-profit association that represents the business interests of consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment.

Our member firms include: AECOM; Arup; Aquentia; Coffey; Cox Architecture; GHD; Hyder Consulting; Parsons Brinckerhoff; SKM; URS Australia; and WorleyParsons.