

NEW GUIDELINES AND A NEW DIRECTION FOR ACT INDUSTRY

Industry association, Consult Australia has welcomed the release of the ACT Government's new guidelines for major projects at a boardroom luncheon held with ACT Deputy Chief Minister Andrew Barr earlier today.

Consult Australia's new ACT Manager, Kevin Keith said the guidelines signal that the Government is serious about attracting private sector investment to the ACT, and that industry looks forward to working with them to achieve this goal.

"Value capture, bond banks, and recycling capital are just some of the money-saving methods industry representatives highlighted to Minister Barr at our boardroom lunch," said Mr Keith.

"The architects, engineers, quantity surveyors and planners in our industry are ready and waiting to do what they can to support economic growth through greater collaboration.

"We know that the public and private sectors are stronger united, and that we have a collective responsibility to lead the ACT towards a more balanced, progressive economy."

Consult Australia represents an industry comprising some 48,000 firms across Australia, is estimated to employ over 240,000 people, and generate combined revenue exceeding \$40 billion a year.

Approximate 40 percent of work undertaken by Consult Australia's 270 member firms is for public sector clients, including roles in the creation of some of Australia's most iconic public infrastructure.

Attendees at the Association's boardroom lunch ranged from representatives from both large multi-nationals and locally-based firms including GHD, AECOM, SMEC, Aurecon and Indesco.

At the meeting Minister Barr acknowledged the changes within the economy and welcomed the opportunity to work more closely with Consult Australia members and the industry in the future.

"The ACT Government is committed to attracting more private sector jobs and investment to Canberra," said Minister Barr.

"We're focusing on our strengths in areas such as ICT, knowledge-based industries, construction and education but welcoming investment across all areas of the economy. Our new framework will provide a clear path for the private sector to bring forward innovative ideas, solutions and projects.

"This renewed focus on investment comes at an important time for Canberra and I look forward to working closely with Consult Australia to help grow our economy."

"This meeting represented the start of what Consult Australia hopes will be an increasingly open and collaborative relationship with the government, and is part of our exciting new direction for Consult Australia in the capital," said Mr Keith.

Ends

20 February 2014

MEDIA RELEASE



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

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact ACT Manager, Kevin Keith on 0420 901 276 or via email at kevin@consultaustralia.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, Brown Consulting, Golder Associates, Kellogg Brown & Root, Opus International Consultants, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Robert Bird Group, URS Australia and WorleyParsons.

We represent an industry comprising some 48,000 firms across Australia, ranging from sole practitioners through to some of Australia's top 500 firms. Collectively, our industry is estimated to employ over 240,000 people, and generate combined revenue exceeding \$40 billion a year.