

STRONGER, MORE COLLABORATIVE BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS

Fostering more productive working relationships between consulting firms and private and public sector clients across jurisdictions:

- Through the Australian Construction Industry Forum, Consult Australia met with the Hon Karen Andrews, Assistant Minister for Science to discuss the Government's construction productivity agenda. Discussion focused on the current consultation being progressed through Building Ministers nationally seeking input into strategies to address risks associated with non-conforming building products.
- In the aftermath of the NSW Budget Consult Australia NSW was pleased to brief Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer Matt Kean MP and Shadow Treasurer Ryan Park MP on our business and infrastructure priorities as part of FutureNet's politics in the pub.
- An industry lunch with Tim Nicholls MP, Leader of the LNP and Shadow Minister for the Arts and Major events and Deb Frecklington MP, Deputy Leader of the LNP and Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, State Development and Trade and Investment to discuss the oppositions approach to federal funding on infrastructure projects, Asset Sale, How to achieve value for money through design and the LNP's Approach to innovation and risk.

SAFER, SUSTAINABLE & MORE PRODUCTIVE WORKPLACES

Improving access to skilled workers against identified shortages:

- Following a detailed review, Consult Australia's position in relation to the National Registration of Engineers has evolved. With the effective disbanding of the National Engineering Registration Board we face significant increased risk of multiple incompatible registration schemes that impose new, substantial and unnecessary cost and compliance burdens on member firms. Consult Australia is opposed to the further development of nationally inconsistent registration schemes across the states and territories. This does not affect Consult Australia's ongoing advocacy for the highest appropriate professional standards, skills and competencies as recognised through the delivery of effective professional training, accreditation and qualifications for all those employees of all disciplines employed by our member firms.

Facilitating a more diverse workforce, with ensuing productivity benefits across the industry:

- Consult Australia was invited to attend a roundtable meeting with Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallas on the Victorian Government's plan for the Registration of Engineers where we highlighted our position on risk of multiple incompatible registration schemes.

BEST PRACTICE PROCUREMENT & FAIRER CONTRACTS

Campaigning for fair allocation of risk between contracting parties, standard contract terms and liability reform at all levels of government:

- Supporting the New South Wales Procurement Inquiry, Consult Australia NSW's detailed submission collates and builds on our *More for Less* and *Better Buying, Better Outcomes* reports. We provided further detailed evidence in the public hearings supporting the Inquiry and are working closely with Committee members as they deliberate on evidence collected thus far.
- A roundtable with Consult Australia Qld and DG's/Deputy DG's from five government agencies including – Premier and Cabinet (DPC); Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP), Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), Queensland Health (QH) and Department of Housing and Public Works (HPW) established a detailed conversation around better procurement. Following this meeting Consult Australia has now established monthly meetings with DG, DILGP and has met with the DG QH and the Minister for HPW to progress our priorities.
- Consult Australia Qld was invited by HPW to workshop the recommendations from the Interdepartmental Committee Review of Procurement that captured many of Consult Australia's recommendations. In addition Consult Australia participated in a workshop with scheme managers of the Whole of Government Engineering Consultant Scheme as they develop the next iteration of the Scheme.
- Consult Australia WA and NSW are advancing the case for Proportionate Liability reform: In WA a high level meeting with the State Solicitors Office has seen us escalate our concerns to the Minister for Finance the Hon Bill Marmion, Small Business Commissioner David Eaton, Department of Main Roads, Building Management and Works, and the Water Corporation of WA. In NSW our recommendations for reform have been positively received by the Inquiry into the Procurement of Government Infrastructure and with key ministers. We have been working with our member firms in WA and NSW to collect the most current industry data and case studies explaining and illustrating the benefits of reform afresh.
- Consult Australia NT meetings with Opposition Leader Michael Gunner, Shadow Minister Nicole Manison, and CEO of the Department of Mines and Energy, Ron Kelly alongside working groups with the NT Department of Infrastructure and Department of Business continue to deliver procurement reform for our member firms including a review of standard form contracts.

BETTER URBAN ENVIRONMENTS & INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Sharing our firms' expertise to deliver more evidence-based public policy outcomes; supporting investment in infrastructure providing more productive, liveable and sustainable urban environments:

- Consult Australia welcomed Infrastructure Australia's release of the *Australian Infrastructure Plan*. Many of the 78 recommendations reflect Consult Australia priorities, including road user charging and new models for financing infrastructure, integrated strategic planning and a longer-term vision for Australia's project pipeline.
- The Australian Government's *Smart Cities Plan* encapsulates much of what Consult Australia has long advocated; including alternative infrastructure funding, value capture, a Public Infrastructure Investment Strategy and leveraging debt. Consult Australia was invited by Ministers Taylor, Fletcher and Hunt alongside the Prime Minister to participate in the Cities Summit identifying the next steps to implement the Plan.
- Ongoing discussions with Mike Mrdak Secretary, Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development to discuss the Australian Government's *Smart Cities Plan* and options for better and fairer ways of paying for Infrastructure.
- Consult Australia has continued to work with John Alexander MP following the Federal Inquiry into Value Capture and had discussions with Trent Zimmerman MP in his capacity as a standing member of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities.
- Our Federal Election Platform, *Six Ideas for Infrastructure*, urged all political parties to move beyond short term political thinking and focus on long term infrastructure demands. Our recommendations focus on planning and delivering the infrastructure for the future and maximising value for money for the taxpayer. Consult Australia SA was pleased to host Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science the Hon Christopher Pyne MP to discuss our priorities at an exclusive pre-Election breakfast.
- Consult Australia provided evidence at the Federal Transport Connectivity Inquiry considering opportunities to capture value uplift from infrastructure. Joined by Joe Langley of AECOM, and further to our submission, Consult Australia provided evidence drawing on our *Value Capture Roadmap*.
- Consult Australia Vic & SA launched our *Valuing Better Engagement* framework discussing the importance of communicating the commercial return from effective stakeholder engagement. The potential for the Framework to help improve the understanding of the real value of engagement practices for infrastructure delivery has been welcomed by both government and industry.

- Following the Qld State Infrastructure Plan, Consult Australia participated in a Symposium with the QLD Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning to discuss future infrastructure funding. Joined by the Hon. Jackie Trad MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment, Consult Australia's *Value Capture Roadmap* was a noted point of reference.
- Building Queensland's *Infrastructure Pipeline Report* reflects Consult Australia's close working relationship with Building Queensland, and we are pleased to be acknowledged as a key stakeholder in the development of report supporting our recommendations for better long-term infrastructure planning in Queensland, and to create greater certainty for business.
- Infrastructure Victoria's discussion paper *All things considered*, and our submission, reflects Consult Australia Vic's advocacy for a more transparent long-term infrastructure pipeline supported by integrated strategic planning including using innovative financing methods such as Value Capture.
- Recent discussions with Infrastructure Tasmania Chief Executive Alan Garcia introduced Consult Australia, highlighting the opportunities for our members to support a longer term infrastructure plan for the State. We look forward to building this relationship in the months ahead towards the delivery of a long-term plan.
- Consult Australia ACT delivered the inaugural State of the Territory Address with ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr; this followed senior engagement with ACT Planning Minister, CEO of Land Development Agency, Director Generals of Department of Environment and Planning, Department of Economic Development and the CEO of the National Capital Authority to discuss long-term planning, sustainability, value capture and infrastructure delivery across the Capital Region.

INDUSTRY INNOVATION, GROWTH & EXCELLENCE

Showcase industry excellence, lead innovation and the adoption of new technologies such as Building Information Modelling (BIM) and Integrated Project Delivery (IPD); delivering a more competitive industry in the longer term:

- Consult Australia SA released our position statement *Building a Nuclear Future for South Australia* broadly supporting the findings from the SA Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission.
- Consult Australia ACT delivered the first ACT 'SMART WEEK' with Data 61 and the ACT Government Digital Transformation Officer.