



2011

POLICY & ADVOCACY WINS

SUSTAINABILITY & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- **Seizing the Sustainability Advantage** has established a blueprint for governance reform to support a more sustainable Australia, focusing on consulting firms' important role in shaping the built and natural environment.
- **Tomorrow's Cities Today**, launched with **Lucy Turnbull AO** of the COAG Reform Council capital city strategic planning expert advisory panel, City of Sydney Chief Executive **Monica Barone** and Executive Director of the Major Cities Unit **Dorte Ekelund**, has advanced a new policy agenda which supports the goals of the National Urban Policy.
- Consult Australia accepted an invitation from the **Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure** to join the Australian Government's Urban Policy Forum, chaired by **Mike Mrdak, Secretary Department of Infrastructure and Transport** to advise the Government on their urban policy reform agenda.
- **Pricing carbon:** Consult Australia joined **Businesses for a Clean Economy (B4CE)** in order to reinforce our in principle recommendation for a price on carbon, noting the need for appropriate incentives to drive behavioural changes towards achieving lower carbon business practices.
- Our advocacy supported the development of the **National Urban Policy**, the **National Sustainable Population Strategy**, **\$10.1 million for the development of sustainability indicators** and the Government's commitment to a **\$20 million Urban Renewal Fund** and **\$29 million to improve strategic planning for regional and coastal growth centres**.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Transporting Australia's Future** is encouraging governments to consider a new approach to transport infrastructure funding. So far in 2011 Consult Australia has met with the **Hon Mike Rann, SA Premier; the Hon Mike Baird MP, NSW Treasurer; the Hon David O'Byrne, TAS Minister for Infrastructure; and Mr Murray Watt, QLD Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer**.
- Consult Australia is pleased to have joined the **Roads Australia Transport Funding and Pricing Reform Steering Committee** supporting the employment of a full-time policy officer with Roads Australia to manage the initiative and oversee this critical reform agenda in collaboration with committee stakeholders.
- Advocacy through the **Hon Wayne Swan MP, Treasurer** and work with Roads Australia resulted in the inclusion of **road pricing on the agenda for the October Tax Forum**.
- Consult Australia's relationship with **Infrastructure Australia** and the office of the **Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure**, enabled us to advocate around a number of our key priorities.
- As a result of Consult Australia's advocacy work, the Federal Budget addressed and reflected many of our specific recommendations for infrastructure funding and governance reform, namely:
 - ➔ Increased funding supporting the delivery of infrastructure;
 - ➔ A stronger role of Infrastructure Australia including their review on user-charges and 'asset-sweating';
 - ➔ Refinement of PPPs promoting best practice procurement and options for private and superannuation sector investment;

- ➔ A national smart motorways trial; and
- ➔ A Productivity Commission review to consider user charging.

SMALLER AND REGIONAL FIRMS

- Consult Australia's **Smaller and Regional Firms Roundtable** is addressing the interests of smaller and regional firms, supporting improved networking opportunities, and providing avenues for these firms to inform the policies and activities of Consult Australia.
- **Resolving disputes:** Consult Australia's recent **submission to the Federal Government review of mechanisms to help small businesses resolve disputes** calls for a framework that will ensure small business owners are made aware of dispute resolution services, receive help in accessing them and, in instances where no formal mechanisms are in place, receive access to low cost dispute resolution services.
- Consult Australia's advocacy work through state and territory Governments contributed to their acknowledgment of the **importance of governments to act as model clients for on-time payment of services**.

WORKPLACE DIVERSITY

- Through a survey covering more than **15,000 employees**, the Skills Roundtable has driven a more comprehensive understanding of workforce participation across the industry.
- Consult Australia's **Workforce Diversity Roundtable** has been charged with addressing all aspects of workplace diversity in member firms, in particular supporting practices to promote the employment and retention of women.





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SKILLS

- Advocacy work through **Senator the Hon Christopher Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations** saw the establishment of the Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations **inquiry into the shortage of engineering and related employment skills.**
- **Skills Challenge:** Consult Australia and its partners on the Australian National Engineering Taskforce (ANET) produced three reports to **highlight, measure and propose solutions for the engineering skills challenge.**
- **National Registration for Engineers:** Consult Australia and its partners on the National Engineering Registration Board (NERB) called on the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to put a **statutory national registration system for engineers on the COAG business reform agenda.**
- Advocacy work through the **Hon Chris Bowen, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship;** the **Hon Peter Garrett, Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth;** and **Senator the Hon Christopher Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations,** contributed to the Governments' clear acknowledgment of the growing demand for skilled workers as a result of the resources boom.
- Key initiatives advocated by Consult Australia included:
 - ➔ Ongoing support by the Government for Consult Australia's in-house Immigration Outreach Officer (IOO);

- ➔ A review of visa subclass 476, exploring its expansion to a wider range of accredited engineering graduates;
- ➔ Implementation of an accredited sponsor scheme to fast-track applications for high volume users of the visa subclass 457;
- ➔ The new National Workforce and Productivity Agency and a \$558 million National Workforce Development Fund; and
- ➔ An additional \$109.9 million over four years for universities with regional campuses.

CONTRACTS LIABILITY & PROCUREMENT

- **AS4122-2010 General Conditions of Contract for Consultants** is now available to purchase providing fair, reasonable, clear and concise contract conditions for all parties. Consult Australia has commenced a substantial ongoing advocacy campaign supporting AS4122-2010 receiving a positive response across a range of our members' clients. In a positive first step the West Australian Local Government Association has already committed to endorse AS4122-2010 for use by local government in WA.
- **Proportionate Liability:** Ongoing advocacy aiming to ensure that contracting out is expressly prohibited in all Australian jurisdictions continued.
- Through the Liability Reform Steering Group, Consult Australia has met with **Senator the Hon Nick Sherry, Minister for Small Business;** and **Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Finance,** advocating the case for proportionate liability and procurement reform as an issue to be progressed through COAG.

- **Department of Defence Contract Negotiations:** In response to emerging issues across defence procurement, Consult Australia has **re-established a high level negotiating group to meet with the Department of Defence** on an ongoing basis.
- **Alliance contracting:** Consult Australia continues to advocate for a review of alliancing policy and guidelines through: **the Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer in NSW;** **Murray Watt, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer in Queensland;** and **the Hon Kim Wells, Victorian Treasurer.**

WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY

- **Towards Model Harmonised Workplace Health and Safety Legislation:** Consult Australia provided consultative support to Safe Work Australia (SWA) in the development of the WHS Regulations and Codes of Practice representing the views of Consult Australia members.
- Through the WHS Roundtable, Consult Australia drafted a **'Framework for a National Code for Safety in Design'.** **The Consult Australia Framework was reflected in the Draft Code released by SWA in December 2011.** Consult Australia continues to advocate to ensure clear roles and responsibilities for all those with an influence over the design process.

