

Thursday 6 October 2016

71% think government should do better job on BIM

Industry has strongly called for greater consistency and harmonisation on government activities relating to Building Information Modelling (BIM) at a forum in Sydney today hosted by industry association Consult Australia, with 71% of those surveyed indicating current procurement of BIM as below average.

BIM is now commonly specified in construction contracts as clients seek to drive innovation and new technologies on their projects. In response to this change, the supply chain is building capability and BIM techniques are now rapidly becoming business-as-usual for large-scale projects.

Consult Australia believes all jurisdictions should be part of the National Digital Engineering Working Group and that industry collaboration is essential to deliver the maximum potential benefits from approaches such as BIM.

State Manager, Matthew Trigg, says there is presently no common definition or understanding of BIM, or an awareness of how this will impact government and industry alike.

“It is great to see governments moving on BIM, but their paths are not aligned and it is causing problems.”

“The benefits of BIM and other digital approaches can be better harnessed. We need to move away from the too often occurrence where positive outcomes are dependent on the knowledge and interests of single individuals within government or industry.”

“Policy makers need to recognise the positive benefits of avoiding the future complications that will come from jurisdictions not working with a common purpose.”

Attendees at the forum were asked how they rate the current procurement of BIM by government, with 27% stating ‘very poor’, 44% as ‘poor’ and 29% as ‘average’, with none indicating ‘good’ or ‘very good’.

The forum explored implementing a BIM mandate or whether the focus should be on creating greater harmonisation on areas such as standards, language, skills and competency. At the start of the forum 93% of attendees expressed support specifically for a BIM mandate in Australia, with this falling to 69% by the end of the discussion.

Creating a Common Vision

“The need for government and industry to collectively create a supportive policy environment has become increasingly essential in order to enable the benefits of new technology and approaches.” says Mr Trigg.

To help achieve this Consult Australia is establishing a [Digital Built Environment Task Group](#) open to representatives from industry and government with demonstrated experience and overseen by the Consult Australia Innovation Roundtable.

“The intention is to break through the technical language and marketing rhetoric and focus decision makers on those actions that will help to ensure the delivery of long term benefits.”

Expressions of interest to join the Task Group should be sent to matthew@consultaaustralia.com.au

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MEDIA RELEASE



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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Consult Australia's NSW State Manager, Matthew Trigg on 02 8252 6708 or nsw@consultaaustralia.com.au

About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the association that represents the business interests of consulting firms that design, engineer, assess and plan our built and natural environments.

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.

Consult Australia has undertaken significant work to further the discussion, including on how major works are financed and procured. For more visit www.consultaaustralia.com.au