

A CARBON TAX THIS SUNDAY: ADAPT TODAY!

A landmark policy framework released today from the built environment industry has called for a stronger role for government to improve the resilience of urban communities and ensure the nation's ongoing productivity.

Released today by the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) Climate Change Task Group, the *Policy Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in the Built Environment* provides a blueprint for the delivery of effective adaptation strategies.

Consult Australia CEO, Megan Motto said that the report marks a crucial first step towards genuine and effective collaboration between government and industry as we adapt our built environment to climate changes already forecast.

"The Australian Government has shown courage in pursuing an aggressive plan to support carbon mitigation, but has not taken the steps necessary to ensure our nation is resilient to future climate change," said Ms Motto.

"What we need, and what the ASBEC report encourages, is for the Government to lead a cross-sector approach to coordinate and prioritise the delivery of adaptation initiatives nation-wide."

Consult Australia has long advocated for the prioritisation and development of an adaptation plan for Australia.

The Association's 2011 thought-leadership reports *Seizing the Sustainability Advantage* and *Tomorrow's Cities Today*, both called for a National Adaptation Plan for Action to ensure that the standard of adaptation and protection is sufficient in all areas of Australia.

"Adapting our built environment today in response to climate change is a prudent step to manage those risks already identified across Australia," said Ms Motto.

"We know the risks to our built environment, and we know how to adapt to mitigate those risks. It is time to get on with it.

"We can take preventative action now at a lower cost than that which will be demanded if we take a later and more reactive approach.

"Consult Australia is pleased to have been able to be involved in the development of this report, and we see it as providing a sound foundation for a genuine commitment to ensure we become, and remain, a more resilient nation."

The introduction of the ASBEC Policy Framework follows the abandonment of the Government's Tax Breaks for Green Buildings initiative, and the axing of \$15.2 million from the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency in the 2012-13 Federal Budget.

"Abandoning the Tax Breaks for Green Buildings was a short sighted decision which completely fails to realise the significant opportunity to reduce emissions through energy efficiency gains in the buildings sector," said Ms Motto.

MEDIA RELEASE



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"I hope to see the ASBEC Policy Framework refocus our Governments' attention on the substantial opportunities for the built environment to contribute to an effective and long-term response to climate change."

Ends

28 June 2012

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 association for professional services firms within the built and natural environment; influencing policy, creating value and promoting excellence.

As an association, Consult Australia's primary focus is on improving the commercial environment for its members and raising standards across the industry.

Consult Australia's member firms services include, but are not limited to: design; architecture; technology; engineering; planning; landscape architecture; surveying; cost consulting (quantity surveyors); project management; and management solutions. The Association represent some of the industry's biggest players in this space with its member firms collectively employing more than 50,000 staff.

Consult Australia is a member of the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) - a collective of leading industry organisations committed to a sustainable built environment in Australia.