

Tuesday 17 November 2015

Sydney Greater Commission must recognise the value of industry expertise

The passage of the Sydney Greater Commission Bill 2015 in the NSW Parliament last week marks a new chapter in the planning for Sydney, but as the focus moves to establishing the body, care must be taken to ensure industry expertise is not wasted.

In welcoming efforts for greater coordination in the planning of our largest city, Consult Australia's NSW State Manager Matthew Trigg says industry expertise must be integral to the Commission's work:

'The independence of the Commission is vital, but there should be an ongoing, multi-layered dialogue from day one if we are to effectively address challenges like affordable housing and congestion as Sydney grows.'

Whole-of-city-planning requires leadership

Consult Australia believes Planning Minister Rob Stokes and the Baird Government should be commended for delivering this vital reform.

'This has not been an easy reform and many challenges lay ahead' says Mr Trigg.

'We believe a key test will be how industry is engaged and the ways in which the Commission will facilitate streamlining other government practices.'

'We look forward to working with the Chair, Commissioners, CEO and their team as they come on board.'

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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 leading not-for-profit 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 <http://consultaaustralia.com.au/Home/Advocacy/Infrastructure>