

“A NEW ERA FOR CITIES”

Leader of built environment body on data-driven approach to cities

July 20th 2017

The interim *National Cities Performance Framework [NCPF]* announced today [20/07/17] by Minister Angus Taylor has been declared ‘a new era for cities and how they are managed,’ by Cities Reference Group member and Chief Executive of Consult Australia, Megan Motto.

Representing some 49 000 consulting firms in the built environment, Ms Motto was speaking on the announcement of the 41-indicator framework for Australia’s 21 largest cities and Western Sydney.

“Australia is changing. In half a century, future Melbourne will be the size of present day Melbourne and Sydney combined. Future Sydney will have doubled – times two in shops, in traffic, requiring homes, schools, hospitals and employment.

“A data-driven approach to managing this future is critical which is why the National Cities Performance Framework is so important. For the first time, it will bring together data sources from housing to commuter time and employment to air quality, breaking down siloes to provide a holistic and much-needed planning approach to our cities.”

The Framework is designed to measure how well cities performing against the Australian Government’s Smart City priorities of jobs and skills; infrastructure and investment; liveability and sustainability; innovation and digital; governance, planning and regulation; and housing.

“This is just the beginning, added Ms. Motto. “Time will enrich this data as year-on-year changes will provide new perspectives, city-by-city comparisons will enliven competition as all seek to attract the best and brightest, and improvements in how data is visualised will increase accountability of leaders and engagement with citizens.”

“This is a new era for cities and how they are managed in Australia, and the government deserves credit for beginning process that will only grow in importance over the decades ahead.”

Input is sought on the framework by August 18th with a form downloadable from the Government’s Cities website: <https://cities.dpvc.gov.au>

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- 1. Interview requests:** To interview Megan Motto, CEO of Consult Australia, please call Kevin Keith on +61 420901276
- 2. About Consult Australia:** Consult Australia is the industry association representing consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment sectors. These services include design, engineering, architecture, technology, survey, legal and management solutions for individual consumers through to major companies in the private and public sector including local, state and federal governments. We represent an industry comprising some 48, 900 firms across Australia, ranging from sole practitioners through to some of Australia's top 500 firms with combined revenue exceeding \$40 billion a year.
- 3. About Megan Motto:** Megan Motto is the Chief Executive Officer of Consult Australia; Member of the Government's new Cities Reference Group; a Director of Standards Australia; Councillor of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI); Treasurer of the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) and sits on the NSW State Advisory Council for the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA).