

MEDIA RELEASE



Driving Business Success for Consulting Firms in the Built and Natural Environment

“SMALL BUSINESS IS BIG BUSINESS FOR BUILT ENVIRONMENT”

Built Environment Body Welcomes Payment Time Boost for Small Business.

For immediate release – Wednesday 22nd November 2017

An industry body representing thousands of consulting firms in the built environment, Consult Australia, has welcomed the Government’s move to ensure small businesses are paid faster.

From July 2018, the Government will be required to pay invoices for contracts worth up to \$1 million within 20 calendar days - an improvement from the current policy of 30 days.

The CEO of Consult Australia, Megan Motto, said: “Small business is *big business* for the built environment and the Australian economy. Cutting red tape and making it easier to manage cash flow turns government into an enabler for small business – critical for industry confidence, our country’s competitiveness, and subsequently economic growth.”

As part of the Government’s response to the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman’s report into payment times and practices, the government announced it will: ensure small businesses are paid faster, setting a new benchmark for Government and industry; increase the transparency and accountability of Commonwealth agencies and entities; and create the right environment for the development, innovation and adoption of technological solutions.

Motto added: “The government spends billions each year on infrastructure alone, and whilst many of our large firms have the resource to work with the system, too many of our small firms feel they have to work against the system. For sole trader and small practice engineers, architects, and planners, time is money and their level of administrative burden, be it through contracts or managing debts, can be the difference between thriving or simply surviving.”

Consult Australia represents some 48 000 firms of which 72% are defined as ‘small’ through having less than 20 employees. It published ‘Economic Benefits of Better Procurement Practices’ in 2015 which identified \$240 million could be saved each year through better procurement practices alone.

“We hear a lot about the government being a model litigant when it comes to procurement reform. This announcement is a step towards the government becoming a model client,” added Motto.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

- 1. Interview requests:** To interview **Megan Motto, CEO of Consult Australia**, please call **+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).
- 4. For more information call:** +61 420 90 12 76