

## **‘ABOUT THE FUTURE FOR THE FUTURE’**

### **Future State of the Territory 2017**

*For immediate release – 28/11/17*

- **Andrew Barr MLA to facilitate debates on cities, technology and democracy**
- **Keynote from award-winning [Cannes] advertising ‘Gruen’ guru Dee Madigan**
  - **Demonstrations at Canberra’s new indoor ski venue – VertiKal**

Canberra - A mix of music, food and debate will see hundreds of young people descend on Dairy Road at 5-30 pm on Tuesday December 5<sup>th</sup> for the second annual Future State of the Territory event. Held at Capital Brewing Co. with food by local favourite ‘Brodburger’ and a ‘first-glimpse’ opportunity to see demonstrations at the new neighbouring indoor-ski facility VertiKal, the event includes –

- **Andrew Barr MLA ACT Chief Minister** facilitating debates on technology and democracy, leadership and inclusivity, creativity and smart cities.
- **Advertising guru Dee Madigan [ABC’s Gruen, Campaign Edge]** will deliver a keynote on how to make change happen. So many of the big issues from gender to marriage equality, climate change to STEM subject take-up, are not utilising the skills of those who excel at change: communicators, marketers, storytellers, advertisers. Dee will give tips on how young people can influence change to create their future.

Future State of the Territory is organised by a group of young volunteers (engineers, architects, bankers, recruiters, lawyers) called FutureNet who are the young professional arm of industry-body Consult Australia. Their previous events include the Chief Minister’s Challenge in 2014, Australia’s first ‘Smart Week’ looking at smart cities and data in 2016, and Grapevine which in 2017 took technology and city debates into the region’s vineyards.

“Our events are about the future for the future,” said Kevin Keith of Consult Australia. “It will be a fun event but there is a serious side too. It’s more important than ever to grow understanding of the implications of technology, the issues and opportunities facing our democracy and to connect young people to our city in ways which empower them to shape how society develops.”

Lead sponsors for the event our engineering consultancies GHD and Arup, alongside Molonglo Group. A number of young people’s groups will also be attending on the night to showcase their work to other young people, ranging from the University of Canberra, ANU’s Fifty50, Institute of Architects, Planning Institute of Australia and students from Frank Fenner Foundation on smart cities.

Brachy Wilson, Chair of FutureNet, said: “Canberra needs more young people to be seen and heard on issues affecting their future. This is what FutureNet is about. Bringing young people together, building a sense of shared purpose, supporting each other to create a future in which Canberra remains amongst the world’s best cities.”

Debates will be livestreamed on [www.Facebook/TheFutureSessions](http://www.Facebook/TheFutureSessions) or tickets (include food by Brodburger and a drink by Capital Brewing Co.) are available at <https://fsot2017.eventbrite.com> priced at \$42 or \$25 for students.

ENDS

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

# MEDIA RELEASE



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- 1. See media opportunities above.** To arrange interviews 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. [www.consultaustralia.com.au](http://www.consultaustralia.com.au)
- 3. About FutureNet.** FutureNet is the young professional arm of Consult Australia seeking to develop young leaders across a broad range of sectors through activities and events.