



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2013

In the December edition of the NT Division E-Newsletter:

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Division News

Members of the NT Division Executive Committee met on Friday 15 November with **Dave McHugh**, recently appointed **Chief Executive of the Department of Infrastructure**. Topics for discussion included:

- Project delivery methodology
- Pipeline of projects
- Tender selection
- Consultant Performance Reporting
- Unlimited liability
- Primary objectives and direction of the Department of Infrastructure

As a direct result of the meeting Consult Australia has been requested to supply the DoI with feedback on preferred consultancy agreements, tender assessment and limited liability. The Division will work through each of these issues and make a submission to the department early in the New Year. We envisage a continuing engagement with the Department with the aim of collaborative outcomes of mutual benefit.

Procurement reviews: With the NT Government currently undertaking a whole of government procurement review, the NT Division contacted the Department of Business (DoB) to offer the assistance of Consult Australia and our member firms to work with government to achieve an outcome benefiting government, consultants and the broader business community. The Division stated Consult Australia's major concern was unlimited liability and indemnity clauses in NT Government tenders, and the impact this has on consulting firms' ability to manage risk – or indeed even obtain adequate PI Insurance.

We reiterated to the Department of Business that whilst it is difficult to put a specific cost on limiting liability there is strong evidence that limiting liability works to the benefit of both our industry and their clients and is already standard practice amongst private sector clients, and is now starting to be adopted by a range of public sector clients in other jurisdictions.

We stated Consult Australia endorses the ongoing use of Australian Standard contract AS4122-2010 General Conditions of Contract for Consultants, which was developed following extensive consultation with client and industry stakeholders, including government representation through the Australian Procurement and Construction Council as the preferred contract for engaging consultants.

Following our submission the DoB responded, outlining priorities of *The Reform Project*. A document on procurement reform produced by the





NATIONAL STRATEGIC PARTNER



NT DIVISION NEWS

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group is expected to be handed to the Chief Minister prior to the end of 2013.

As Consult Australia has been actively advocating for this reform, we will be following up with the Department early in the New Year, seeking our inclusion on any reference groups connected with procurement reform.

NT Registration for Engineers: In a win for micro businesses operating in the Territory, Consult Australia has secured a commitment by the NT Government to review engineering registration fees. The issue was first raised by a small member firm. Under current legislation, engineers and engineering companies must be registered to provide residential building work. A perverse outcome of this legislation is that the owner/ operators must be registered twice and pay two fees: once as an individual and once as a company. Consult Australia raised this with the Director of Building Advisory Services within the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment, who committed to put forward reform options to the NT Government in the first half of 2014. Member firms can contribute to the review process by contacting NT/SA State Manager, Jan Irvine.

Events

The team at **easyconsult**, our Gold Sponsor, thank those who attended the recent easyconsult webinar series **Building Great Consultants** presented by Kym Williams in conjunction with Consult Australia. If you missed it or would like to watch the free series again at your leisure, please [click here](#). Watch these webinars to gain world class advice that will help take you to a whole new level as a consultant. Feel free to also forward this on to any colleagues or connections you have that you believe would benefit from watching the series.

FutureNet

Consult Australia NT Division enjoyed a successful launch of **FutureNet Darwin** on 24 October. To view photos of the event visit the [FutureNet Facebook page](#). FutureNet is an initiative established by Consult Australia to create a network of young professionals who are dedicated to excelling and sharing their knowledge in the built and natural environment. It aims to assist in the development of business skills and relationships to equip emerging professionals with the skills to succeed in today's competitive market. The launch event, held at the Hilton Darwin was attended by over 80 young professionals and the newly formed FutureNet Darwin committee are now in the planning stages for the first event for 2014.

To ensure the FutureNet group builds on the success of our first event we are calling on you for assistance.

What do we want?

- ✓To increase our database of **contacts** in Darwin
- ✓To attract an initial core group of **sponsors** to partner with us on this new initiative

Please assist us by passing this email on to anyone you know in the Darwin who may be interested in attending events or sponsoring. Anyone with interest in being involved at any level (attendance, committee, sponsor) should simply email jan@consultaaustralia.com.au indicating areas of interest.





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Membership

Consult Australia's reputable member services include:

- An annual industry lead Salary Survey delivered in partnership with AON Hewitt;
- Practice Performance Survey— a 40 metric peer benchmarking tool delivered in partnership with Deloitte Private;
- The industry's first collaboratively developed Safety in Design Tool Kit;
- Free immigration advice;
- Company insurance offer;
- Standardised contracts;
- Professional development courses; and
- FutureNet for junior professionals and state-wide senior client networking opportunities.

Are you a member yet? Contact Jan Irvine, State Manager SA/NT for further information on membership services and benefits at

E: jan@consultaaustralia.com.au

New Members

We welcome new members

- Entura

Consult Australia Member Benefit spotlight

The annual Salary Survey is exclusive to members and is a fantastic tool that helps business owners set effective pay structures. Paying below market standards risks high employee turnover and paying above market standards risks over-spending on wages. Participate in this Survey to help avoid these common pitfalls. [Click here](#) for an information flyer, or email consultaaustralia@aonhewitt.com to learn more and sign up. Data collection begins December 2013 and remember: only survey participants get to see the data!



Consult Australia NT Division wishes all members a Safe and Happy Festive Season. Please note that the NT office will be closed from Tuesday afternoon 24 December and will reopen Monday 13 January 2014.

A big thank you to our NT Division Sponsors of 2013/2014– it would not be possible to offer our great program of events, workshops and advocacy without their support.

Sponsoring the NT Division ensures we can continue with our **successful events program**, and **speak loudly** on behalf of our members across **varied, critical advocacy issues**. For information download the [NT Division Sponsor Package 2013/2014](#). If you would like to discuss opportunities to work with the NT Division please contact jan@consultaaustralia.com.au or PH (08) 8216 1177

NT Division Gold Sponsor 2013/14

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