

2018 POLICY WINS & ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS



CONSULT AUSTRALIA'S POLICY AND ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Consult Australia's policy and advocacy is supported by long-standing, productive relationships with federal, state and territory parliaments. Our members' substantial expertise and unique perspective on the built and natural environment informs everything we do. Six Priorities to Support and Transform the Built Environment Sector in Australia were identified by our members for 2018. Our key wins and advocacy highlights for this year are reported against each of these priorities.

STRENGTHEN BUILT ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PIPELINE

Thought Leadership, Ibodies, Infrastructure Governance in Australia

- Consult Australia has called for greater separation between politics, planning and projects, presenting a model infrastructure body or "IBody" for adoption by all jurisdictions following a comprehensive review of their existing governance procedures. Our Report *IBodies, Infrastructure Governance in Australia* launched on 30th January 2018 with an exclusive write up in the Australian Financial Review.
- Print media articles followed in the Canberra Times (picked up in the SMH, The Age, Brisbane Times and WA Today), and the Adelaide Advertiser. Five Trade media publications, including The Fifth Estate, Build Australia, Infrastructure Magazine, WA Business News, and 'Roads and Infrastructure' magazine (to be published) have covered the report.
- The Report was also featured through four broadcast outlets, ABC Canberra, ABC Radio Perth, 2CC CANBERRA, and WIN TV. It has also been covered in The Fifth Estate and in Western Australia, South Australia, and ACT media.
- The Western Australian Government shortly after announced that it would establish 'Infrastructure WA', following significant advocacy by Consult Australia and fellow industry coalition partners. The South Australia Government has also announced its intention to create 'Infrastructure SA'.
- We received a commendation from the CEO of Infrastructure Australia, who says,
"This work represents an important and timely thought leadership contribution to the sector, as well as, and most importantly to policy makers. I would like to commend and nominate Consult Australia for this work."
- Infrastructure Victoria's Chief Executive also sent a note of commendation to Consult Australia saying that he has shared our paper with government officials from New Zealand, Argentina, and Columbia who are all considering ways of strengthening their infrastructure governance.

Infrastructure & Urban Development:

- The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Assistant Secretary for Cities attended Consult Australia's Infrastructure and Urban Design Roundtable to give an overview of the Government's Cities Policies. The new Cities Performance Framework was also discussed.

- The Australian Financial Review quoted from Consult Australia's Pre-Federal Budget Submission. Consult Australia's submission puts forward a number of infrastructure funding proposals, but the asset recycling aspect was picked up as a result of America's interest in the approach taken in Australia.
- We have established a Business Case Working Group to explore a new piece of thought leadership in this area. Infrastructure Australia hosted the Working Group to discuss their business case work, and explore how Consult Australia could add value to business case development in Australia.
- We have also established an Asset Recycling Working Group to review the asset recycling opportunity in Australia, following on from the 2012 Infrastructure Australia report. It is in the process of developing its scope of work.

IMPROVE PROCUREMENT FOR BETTER PROJECT OUTCOMES

Strategic initiative: Model Client Policy

- Consult Australia's Model Client Policy, which has been advocated through a number of state procurement reviews, has now been launched as a whole of Australia campaign (launched 13th June 2018), received both radio and print media coverage. It has been circulated to key Government stakeholders across the country.
- The 'Model Client Policy' by Consult Australia is a series of principles to ensure governments behave ethically and fairly in their dealings their suppliers. It deliberately emulates existing model litigant policies in place across a number of jurisdictions to demonstrate that such a policy can be introduced.
- The Western Australian Department of Finance has indicated that it is going to work towards becoming a 'Model Client', and the Queensland Department of Main Roads, and Housing and Public Works have also indicated interest in the Policy.
- The Office of the Small Business Ombudsman is also working with Consult Australia to promote the policy within the Commonwealth Government.

Strategic initiative: Centre for Procurement Excellence

- Consult Australia has developed a model for a Centre for Procurement Excellence. We have been invited to brief the office of the Commonwealth Minister for Finance on this initiative, with a view to seeking Government adoption of this proposal. The Centre's primary function would be to improve procurement skills and capacity across government entities.

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Strategic initiative: *The benefits of Standardisation*

- The Global Infrastructure Hub has agreed to partner on a piece of work with Consult Australia to explore the benefits of standardising risk assessment and contractual terms and conditions used to engage consultants. A scoping document has been shared with the Global Infrastructure Hub with a view to developing this project in the second half of the year.

Strategic initiative: *Client engagement*

- Defence Co-Lab - Cooperation between Consultants, Contractors & Defence

Two Defence | Industry 'Co-Lab' have been held so far this year bringing together senior Defence officials, consultants and contractors. Initiated by Consult Australia, the Co-Lab has agreed a Terms of Reference and jointly developed a Charter to aid engagement. Activities agreed through the Co-Lab to be delivered include a CEO breakfast; work to influence the agenda of the major national conference to make it more relevant to industry; and a nationwide consultation to help consultants and contractors better understand work that is coming up. Defence has also asked Consult Australia step in as facilitator for an industry briefing held in Darwin.

- Through its State Committees Consult Australia holds regular meetings with the following government agencies to engage on industry issues:
 - o QLD: Dept of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Transport and Main Roads, Housing and Public Works, Queensland Rail, Queensland Health, and Building Queensland.
 - o SA: Department of Planning, Transport & Infrastructure.
 - o NT: Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.
 - o WA: Main Roads, Water Corp, and Finance.
 - o NSW: RMS and Transport NSW.
- We have consulted with the leading Professional Indemnity (PI) Insurance brokers to produce a Practice Note for members on the extensions to standard PI insurance cover, which may be available to consultants. This provides guidance to members on what to look out for.

STRENGTHEN THE TALENT PIPELINE

Strategic initiative: *Thought Leadership, STEM Education Reform*

- Consult Australia is working towards the launch of its recommendations for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) reforms to education in order to refocus our system onto these critical skills for our industry and our future. This piece of thought leadership looks at what is happening with STEM education from primary to tertiary education. This work has received input from the Science Teachers Association, and will be launched in the second half of the year.

Strategic initiative: *Mental Health in the Workplace*

- A Mental Health Working Group has been formed and is developing guidance and thought-leadership for Consult Australia members to support mental health in the workplace. With one in every five (20% or approximately 3.2 million) Australians projected to experience mental illness throughout their lives, promoting mentally healthy workplace environments is rapidly being recognised as a crucial factor for improving workforce retention, productivity and competitiveness.

Addressing skills gaps through temporary/permanent migration

- Consult Australia has held briefings with the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Jobs and Small Business to share the results of our skills short survey results and to discuss the impact of this year's changes to the visa programmes on consulting businesses. Consult Australia, through the People & HR Roundtable, will be exploring a strategic initiative to seek Government support for reducing barriers in the migration system for critical skills needs in our sector.

LEAD DEBATE ON THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION AGENDA

Strategic initiative: *Thought Leadership, Innovation in the built environment*

Consult Australia is partnering with Deloitte Access Economics to unlock innovation in project delivery. The initiative will see public and private sector client groups coming together with Consult Australia members to develop a clear understanding of the constraints and opportunities, with a view to increasing greater collaboration and innovation. The CRC for Low Carbon Living has provided funding to us for the project pilot event.

Smart Cities Guide

- Consult Australia and the Smart Cities Council ANZ launched a Smart Cities Guide for Consultants, a tool kit to assist consultants better understand the role of data, design and technology in Cities.

IMPROVE THE REGULATORY AND BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FOR FIRMS

Impediments to Business Investment

- We have been invited to give evidence in July to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Inquiry into business impediments in the Australian economy following our comprehensive submission. The submission covered relevant areas to Consult Australia members including, infrastructure governance, contract and liability issues, engineering registration, and STEM education.

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Building Ministers' Industry Forum

- Consult Australia was a signatory on a joint industry letter to the Federal Building Minister calling for the Building Ministers Forum to reconvene the industry forum in light of the recent Shergold & Weir report into improving the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement systems for the building and construction industry. The Minister has agreed to reconvene and that Consult Australia will be invited to participate.
- Non-confirming building products Consult Australia has provided two briefing notes to members on the status of the building product safety debate in Australia and potential impacts for members. The first issued in March covered the Australian Government's position on building product safety. The second provided a report on the Shergold & Weir report to the Building Ministers Forum on Improving the Effectiveness of Compliance and Enforcement Systems for the Building and Construction Insurance across Australia.

Registration of Engineers

- We have met with Victorian Treasury & Finance officials and Members of Parliament to discuss concerns regarding the drafting of the Engineers Registration Bill. We have also written to Premiers and Chief Ministers across the country calling for a national approach to registration, as opposed to a fragmented state by state approach, which will restrict movement of professionals across jurisdictional borders, and impose unnecessary regulatory burdens on business.

Budget 2018 response

- We attended the Federal Budget Lock-up providing a briefing paper for members, sent out the night of the Budget announcement. Our media statement was picked up in the Australian, The Fifth Estate, and Roads and Infrastructure OnLine.