

First Female Consulting Engineer Receives Industry Top Honour

A leading consulting engineer from Western Australia has become the first female recipient to be recognised with a prestigious life membership by industry association Consult Australia.

Judith Uren, Executive with the Major Projects Advisory Group with engineering firm BG&E received the built environment industry's top honour at the recent Consult Australia Awards for Excellence. Consult Australia Chief Executive Megan Motto observed, 'This honour recognises Judith's extensive past and ongoing contribution to the association and to delivering a better industry and built environment across Australia.'

Judith has been extremely successful in her own right as an engineer since completing her honours and masters degrees at the University of Western Australia. Since then, in what has traditionally been a male dominated profession, Judith has excelled by being involved at varying levels in the design and construction of some of Western Australia's key infrastructure projects, in particular the building of Goongoongup Rail Bridge and the Windan Road Bridge over the Swan River, and more recently as a member of the alliance board on the Gateway WA (AUD \$1b) transport infrastructure project.

Judith puts her ability to rise to the top in an otherwise male dominated environment down to her 'professionalism, persistence and dedication to each and every task'.

She explains how it has not always been easy, especially the times when having to juggle children (of which she has three), career and her other extra curricular activities. Judith explains that the balancing act was particularly difficult in her earlier years post graduation when she first started working and her, and her husband, started a family at a time when workplace flexibility and allowances were not really an option.

Though it has been a while since Judith graduated with her engineering degree back in 1977, a recent study by Graduate Careers Australia in 2013 showed that of the females studying at university, only 3.7% were studying engineering as compared to 24.6% of their male counterpart's.* As Judith puts it 'there is certainly still more work to be done to encourage more females to study engineering at university, but at the same time there is also still more work to be done to support and encourage them to stay within the profession with a view to making it to the more senior levels within the industry'.

* From 8185 respondents (3103 men and 5082 women) (Source: Graduate Careers Australia)

Ends

15 Dec 2015

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Consult Australia's WA State Manager, Steven Coghlan on 0404 831 627 or via email at steve@consultaustalia.com.au.

About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the industry association that represents the business interests of consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment.

Our member firms include: AECOM, Beca, BG&E, SMEC, GHD, Jacobs, Calibre Consulting, Golder Associates, Kellogg Brown & Root, Opus International Consultants, Aurecon, Arcadis, Rider Levett Bucknall, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff and WorleyParsons.

We represent an industry comprising some 48,000 firms across Australia, ranging from sole practitioners through to some of Australia's top 500 firms. Collectively, our industry is estimated to employ over 240,000 people, and generate combined revenue exceeding \$40 billion a year.