

# **MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## **ENSURING OCCUPATIONAL MOBILITY FOR ENGINEERS WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

*Consult Australia supports the Government's priority focus on reducing business costs of licensing and registration*

Consult Australia welcomes the announcement by the Hon. Ben Morton MP, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet, that improving occupational mobility will be one of the next priority areas for the Deregulation Taskforce.

Consult Australia represents businesses in design, advisory, and engineering, an industry comprising some 48,000 firms across Australia that employ around 240,000 people. Consult Australia is the only association representing the business community in our sector.

As stated in the Assistant Minister's release, occupational licensing and registration requirements often vary between states and territories which imposes costs on businesses and workers who work across Australia. Whilst the registration of engineers has been legislated in Qld for many years, legislation has just recently been passed in Vic and NSW. The ACT and WA are also now considering similar schemes. As these systems are being introduced it is critical that they do not create barriers to movement but work seamlessly as one system for Australian engineering professionals.

Nicola Grayson, Chief Executive of Consult Australia, said, "Our members continue to call on state and territory governments to cooperate on this issue to minimise the burden on our sector. With the lead of the Federal Government's Deregulation Taskforce we hope industry and governments can finally collaborate to deliver the best outcome.

"Arguably engineers work across jurisdictions more than any other profession, without mutual registration, our industry's productivity will be adversely impacted. Consult Australia's membership is dominated by small and medium enterprises; these types of costs can have a significant impact especially as we strive for economic recovery from COVID-19.

"Consult Australia has consistently called for mutual registration – one fee, one registration. This contrasts with state/territory mutual recognition which creates an administratively burdensome process. We also propose that a technological solution – a portal of registered engineers in Australia – will deliver significant benefits to the community and to all state and territory governments. This approach would improve confidence in the sector and provide transparency for the public benefit.

"We call on state and territory governments to commit to this initiative, including prioritisation of a single portal for registered engineers."

**ENDS**

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### **NOTES TO EDITOR**

#### **1. About Consult Australia**

Consult Australia is the industry association representing consulting businesses in design, advisory, and engineering. Their services also include cost management, 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 48,000 firms across Australia, ranging from sole practitioners through to some of Australia's top 500 firms with combined revenue exceeding \$40 billion a year.

#### **2. About Nicola Grayson**

Nicola Grayson is the Chief Executive of Consult Australia. Nicola is responsible for implementing the organisation's strategy, building ongoing external relationships, and for leading Consult Australia's advocacy and government relations agenda on behalf of member firms.

Nicola is a government relations specialist, and has represented industry associations in the United Kingdom, the European Union, and Australia. Nicola has worked across a range of sectors including general insurance, consumer finance, alcohol, and education, in addition to consulting engineering. She has an Honours Degree in Law from the United Kingdom and was previously Consult Australia's Director of Policy and Government Relations.

#### **3. For interview**

For more information and to arrange an interview, please contact Nicola Grayson directly on +61 499 878 839 or email [nicola@consultaustalia.com.au](mailto:nicola@consultaustalia.com.au).