

Consult Australia welcomes the HomeBuilder initiative, but a 32% decline in business for engineering and design firms requires attention

Consult Australia releases survey findings COVID-19 impacts and the outlook for design, engineering and advisory businesses in the building and infrastructure sectors

The Federal Government's HomeBuilder program will help safeguard construction jobs. Consult Australia's COVID-19 survey, which was released today, highlights the benefits of this scheme's focus on encouraging more investments on residential building projects.

However, Consult Australia's survey of COVID-19 impacts on engineering, design and advisory businesses suggests more support is needed for other parts of the building sector which have been significantly impacted.

Consult Australia represents engineering, design and advisory businesses, an industry comprising of 48,000 businesses and 240,000 professionals. Consult Australia's COVID-19 survey measured the collective impact and outlook for these business types. Some of the key findings include:

- Two-thirds of engineering, design and advisory businesses are experiencing a reduction in work, with one-third of normal operations being the average reduction;
- 53 per cent of these businesses believe their future pipeline of work will shrink further over the next six months; and
- 56 per cent of these businesses anticipate that competition across the industry will become tighter over the next six months.

Nicola Grayson, Chief Executive of Consult Australia, said:

"Our COVID-19 survey has highlighted the soft areas of our industry, which suggests more targeted support is needed."

"This includes looking at how design and engineering work can create a rolling pipeline of projects to help revitalise the economy and our communities in the years ahead."

"HomeBuilder will provide work for home builders and trades. But we must ensure support is reaching across the construction industry. This will help safeguard essential jobs such as professional engineers and designers without whom there is no construction pipeline."

A copy of Consult Australia's COVID-19 pulse survey results is [available here](#).

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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NOTES TO EDITOR

1. 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, 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 0499 878 839 or email nicola@consultaaustralia.com.au.