

CONSULT AUSTRALIA INFRASTRUCTURE REFORM AGENDA ENDORSED

The 2021 Australian Infrastructure Plan includes a landmark reform agenda that reflects solutions proposed by Consult Australia

NATIONAL – Consult Australia is pleased to endorse the *2021 Infrastructure Plan*, released today by Infrastructure Australia.

The 2021 Plan provides a reform pathway that reflects Consult Australia’s thought leadership for improving industry productivity and innovation, including:

- our ‘Model Client’ Policy
- rethinking risk and contract terms to support a vibrant and sustainable industry and de-risk the professional indemnity insurance market
- our drive for a smarter pipeline of projects and a ‘go slow to go fast’ approach to project development
- adoption of digital solutions.

Consult Australia, the industry voice for consulting businesses in design, advisory and engineering, has been calling for urgent reform in how infrastructure projects across Australia are funded, planned, procured, and delivered. We are pleased to see that the solutions that we have put forward are included in the 2021 Plan, which lays out many of systemic challenges that have been a drag on productivity and innovation.

Nicola Grayson, Chief Executive of Consult Australia, said, “I am proud that Consult Australia’s strong advocacy focus on people, pipeline, procurement, and practice have been picked up by Infrastructure Australia, the leading source of advice for governments on nationally significant infrastructure needs.”

“We now need to see change in action. We need the commitment of every state and territory to realise this reform agenda, with priority given to the commercial conditions under which consulting business are operating. Poor practice is exhausting the available pool of insurance and we are seeing a rapid deterioration in affordability and quality of cover.” said Grayson.

As the 2021 Plan says, there has been no better time for reform. Australians are recovering from challenges that have tested our individual and collective resilience during 2020–2021.

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



In addition to the still-unfolding COVID-19 pandemic, Consult Australia members are struggling to survive the professional indemnity insurance hard market, which is unlikely to recalibrate without urgent de-risking action by industry and government. In addition, our industry is facing critical skills shortages further hampered by closed international borders.

Grayson added: "The industry stands ready and more willing than ever to work with governments to ensure we can deliver quality infrastructure for all Australians."

Consult Australia will be engaging with governments across the country to assist in the implementation of the reforms set out in the 2021 Plan.

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NOTES TO EDITOR

1. The need for reform

You can read Consult Australia's position on the need for reform and proposed solutions in our submission ([click here](#) to read) to the current [Parliamentary Inquiry into Procurement Practices for government funded infrastructure](#), being conducted by the Commonwealth's Parliamentary Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, and Cities.

Also note the joint industry letter to that inquiry, to which Consult Australia is a signatory ([click here](#) to read).

2. About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the industry association representing consulting businesses in design, advisory and engineering, an industry comprised of over 55,000 businesses across Australia. This includes some of Australia's top 500 companies and many small businesses (97%). Our members provide solutions for individual consumers through to major companies in the private sector and across all tiers of government. Our industry is a job creator for the Australian economy, directly employing 240,000 people. The services we provide unlock many more jobs across the construction industry and the broader community.

3. 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 members.

Nicola chairs the International Federation of Consult Engineers Committee on Risk, Liability, and Quality. Nicola is also a member of the Commonwealth's Procurement Consultative Roundtable and Centre of Procurement Excellence Steering Group.

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@consultaaustralia.com.au.