

## 457 CHANGES A POSITIVE SIGN FOR RED TAPE REDUCTION

The industry association for Australia's engineering firms, Consult Australia, has applauded the Government's efforts to remove 457 visa red tape, but has again strengthened calls to the end the singling out of engineers.

Consult Australia's CEO, Megan Motto said the changes are a positive signal that the Government is serious about removing red tape, and that the Association will continue advocating for employers of engineers to be exempt from Labour Market Testing for 457 positions.

"The independent review into the visa program will be very important as it will help the Government find other ways to streamline the system," said Ms Motto.

"Making the rules for employing engineers and nurses the same as for others under the 457 visa system is the first—and simplest—change that the review panel should recommend.

"The changes are positive as they effectively remove an artificial limit on the number of temporary skilled migrants that companies can employ. This will allow employers to assess employment needs as the market changes, rather than sticking to a fixed limit for three years."

Consult Australia has been very vocal in the 457 visa debate following the introduction of changes to the Migration Act that specify that employers of engineers and nurses are not eligible for exemptions to the Labour Market Testing process.

"We have shown both sides of government hard evidence that our industry employs 457 workers only to offset local skills shortages and not in order to bypass domestic professionals," said Ms Motto.

"The introduction of Labour Market Testing for these positions has done nothing but increase the costs for firms that actually drive on-stream employment throughout the construction supply chain.

"We hope that as part of the independent review announced by Senator Cash we will be presented with the opportunity for more open dialogue with the Government on how this issue affects our industry."

### Ends

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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact PR & Policy Advisor, Gillian O'Young on (02) 8252 6715 or via email at [gillian@consultaaustralia.com.au](mailto:gillian@consultaaustralia.com.au).

### About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the leading not-for-profit association that represents the business interests of consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment.

Our member firms include: AECOM, Brown Consulting, Golder Associates, Kellogg Brown & Root, Opus International Consultants, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Robert Bird Group, URS Australia and WorleyParsons.

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