

TWO RECOVERY PATHS – VICTORIA AND THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

Consult Australia's industry health check on COVID-19 impacts and the outlook for design, advisory, and engineering businesses

Consult Australia has today released an [Industry Health Check](#) report for the September quarter (Q3), which continues to show a drop in work across our industry. The Health Check measures the current commercial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on design, advisory and engineering businesses, and the anticipated six-month outlook for their pipeline of work. Our industry is made up of 48,000 businesses and 240,000 professionals across Australia.

Key findings from Consult Australia's Q3 Industry Health Check, and comparisons to June quarter (Q2), are below.

- Half of our industry is experiencing a reduction in work due to COVID-19 impacts. This is an improvement on the Q2 report, which found that two-thirds were experiencing a reduction.
- There has been an average 20% drop in normal business for those impacted. This is a marginal improvement from the Q2 results which found a 32% reduction.
- The situation has worsened in Victoria. Nearly 80% of businesses providing services in the state are now experiencing a reduction in work, up from 62% in Q2.
- The decrease in privately funded building projects is our industry's main concern however, more businesses are now reporting a drop in government-funded work.
- 54% believe their business' pipeline of work will shrink further over the next six months, and 69% anticipate tighter competition.
- 61% noted serious concerns with the outlook in Victoria – with NSW next at 36%.

Nicola Grayson, Chief Executive of Consult Australia, said:

“While it is positive to see incremental improvements in access to work and projects this quarter, it is concerning to see the indication by some that government work is slowing. A worsening situation in Victoria is particularly worrying.”

“We are not just concerned about the handbrake to our industry in Victoria but also what a lagging recovery and uncertainty means for our industry's outlook in the months ahead.”

“We encourage the Victorian Government in its upcoming economic response to focus on investments that restore business confidence and that create a broad pipeline of projects that have a stimulatory effect across our industry. We offer our assistance to the government in finding ways forward.”

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MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



NOTES TO EDITOR

1. About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the industry association representing consulting businesses in design, advisory and engineering. Our industry comprises some 48,000 businesses across Australia, ranging from sole practitioners through to some of Australia's top 500 companies, providing 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.

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 (0)499 878 839 or email nicola@consultaaustralia.com.au.