

## NUCLEAR SA CRITICAL FOR JOBS & GROWTH

South Australia needs a plan to deliver real productivity, maintain our standard of living and create jobs for the next generation.

As the Government awaits the final report from the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission, industry association Consult Australia has thrown its weight behind a plan for growth that fully explores the potential to develop a new nuclear industry in the State.

Consult Australia, State Manager, Jan Irvine stated: 'The tentative findings from the Royal Commission indicate the potential for a new nuclear industry to leverage South Australia's unique geography and skills base to deliver new jobs and growth.

'We appreciate the sensitivity within the broader community of any moves to develop new nuclear industries. That is why we believe that effective community engagement must be the foundation on which South Australia explores the development of nuclear.

'Engagement on this issue must empower the community, be supported by investment, and account for the particular interests and experience of regional, remote and Aboriginal communities.'

Further development of a nuclear industry for South Australia must identify the most beneficial opportunities and properly account for the costs, benefits, and risks associated with each of enrichment, generation, and storage.

Ms Irvine observes: 'South Australia needs jobs and a new industry to replace production, skills and supply chains lost through the closure of automotive manufacturing and the transition away from major resources projects'

It is now clear that a nuclear industry for South Australia has unique potential to

- Create jobs and build new supply chains.
- Support new and advanced services industries.
- Incentivise new industry and innovation clusters.
- Attract and retain key skills in South Australia and slow the migration of young people domestically and internationally.
- Provide an additional base load generation fuel option to diversify current energy sources and underpin energy security in the National Energy Market and;
- Supply and support a zero emissions energy source as a future replacement of fossil fuels as a base load energy source.

Consult Australia recommends establishing an independent Nuclear South Australia agency to progress the findings and recommendations delivered by the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission.

Ms Irvine notes: 'A staged plan established to develop opportunities and the nuclear industry in South Australia must include points of review for further engagement, and evaluation in line with changes in industry, the economy and the broader social and political environment.

'We have the skills and the geography to make this industry work for the next generation. Our current economic malaise is not one we are going to be able to dig ourselves out of.

'If we do not act soon to capitalise on our strengths, then we risk looking back longing for the leadership and ambition that would have retained our key skills, capitalise on our natural advantages, and set us on a new more productive path.'

**Ends**

# MEDIA RELEASE



Driving Business Success for Consulting Firms in the Built and Natural Environment

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## About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the industry association that represents the business interests of consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment.

Our member firms include: AECOM, Beca, SMEC, GHD, Jacobs, Calibre Consulting, Arup, Golder Associates, Kellogg Brown & Root, Opus International Consultants, Aurecon, Arcadis, SLR, Rider Levett Bucknall, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff, MWH Australia, Norman Disney & Young and WorleyParsons.

We represent an industry comprising some 48,000 firms across Australia, ranging from sole practitioners through to some of Australia's top 500 firms. Collectively, our industry is estimated to employ over 240,000 people, and generate combined revenue exceeding \$40 billion a year.