

CONSULT AUSTRALIA WELCOMES RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO NATURAL DISASTER ARRANGEMENTS

Consult Australia commends focus on the land-use planning in bushfire-prone areas and risk mitigation measures for critical infrastructure

Consult Australia welcomes many findings from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, which were tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament last week.

We support the Royal Commission's call for governments to identify critical infrastructure, assess their risks from natural disaster, and to put in place steps to mitigate risks and create more resilient assets. Designing more resilient assets to withstand risks will help our communities to better respond and recover from future natural disasters.

Another component of the Royal Commission we welcome is the link between land-use planning and our resilience to natural hazards. We must strive to ensure our built and natural environments are complimentary and harmonious – while our ability to influence natural hazards is limited, we can reduce their impact through the principles of adaptation and mitigation when making land-use decisions for our communities.

The Royal Commission also noted benefits from leveraging capabilities from industry and international disaster recovery expertise (the humanitarian sector) to strengthen recovery and response efforts. We encourage governments to consider how these capabilities can be effectively utilised through the recommendations on establishing coordination forums, undertaking recovery efforts, and other planning activities for future disaster events.

Nicola Grayson, Chief Executive of Consult Australia, said:

“The National Bushfires Royal Commission has identified some important measures that will better equip our communities to respond to events like Black Summer.”

“We are pleased to see the focus on ensuring our built environment can handle increased natural disaster risks, and welcome the focus on creating more resilient and sustainable infrastructure and buildings in bushfire-prone communities.”

“Our members and their expertise stand ready to help governments implement recommendations from the Bushfires Royal Commission.”

ENDS

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 2020



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.