

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2013



NT DIVISION

NEWS

In the February edition of the NT Division E-Newsletter:

- Policy Update
- Events
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Policy Update

NT UPDATE

Drill Rig Safety Guide: This document—developed in partnership with the Australian Drilling Industry Association (ADIA) and drafted over the past three years in response to safety risks on drill rigs—has now passed its legal review, and is with the ADIA for publication, likely early this year.

NT Division Industry activity

NT Division chair, Jaswant Deo recently met with Dave McHugh regarding the review of the Northern Territory Government procurement process. Items of discussion included:

- Quality of documentation – expectations of consultants unclear and documentation often of poor quality
- Quality of Assessment panel - Panellists often not qualified in areas pertaining to the tender they are assessing
- Inconsistency of selection methods
- “De-brief” process of little or no relevance. Procurement department limits debrief to 1 hour, scripted response. For transparency to be shown the debrief process needs to be revisited
- Cost to industry of procurement process within the current procurement method
- Contracts – considering new legislation around WHS and Safety in Design is a D&C contract value for money
- Use of AA4122 General Conditions of Contracts for Consultants versus NT Government standard conditions
- Level of work being awarded to local business versus interstate

While the report on the review of the whole of government procurement process has not yet been released, the NT Division will endeavour to keep members updated as this occurs.

Following on from the December Member Only Breakfast with **The Hon Adam Giles MLA, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Transport, Minister for Local Government** (see separate update below), a meeting was held between Consult Australia member representatives and **Stephen Hoyne, Executive Director – Major Projects, Dept of Infrastructure** to discuss procurement models for Tiger Brennan Drive. Further meetings with the Major Projects team are scheduled.

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NT Division makes the case for Infrastructure NT:

A long-term approach to the prioritisation of infrastructure in the Northern Territory is essential. While many infrastructure projects are prioritised through clear and rational assessment, in some cases decision making risks being misconstrued, and may appear to be driven by political exigency where no clear process or guidelines for assessment have been developed. When communities are competing for scarce dollars, clear processes are essential to assess, rank and prioritise projects. Decisions must be robust and stand the test of changing political and economic circumstances.

Across Australia there are a number of models now implemented supporting greater independence in the selection and prioritisation of infrastructure projects. Infrastructure Australia, Infrastructure NSW and Infrastructure Queensland are just some of the approaches now employed that merit consideration in determining a best-practice model for implementation in the Northern Territory.

This proposal, for **Infrastructure NT and Projects NT**, reflects the best characteristics of approaches adopted across jurisdictions, tailored to deliver a more competitive, productive, liveable and sustainable Northern Territory in the decades ahead.

We expect to meet with the Government to further advance discussions on the proposal. To view the **Infrastructure NT Proposal** document [Click Here](#)

Events....upcoming

March Members Only Breakfast is with our guest **Mr Gary Nairn**, recently announced **Chair of the Northern Territory Planning Commission**. The new independent planning body for the Territory, the NT Planning Commission has been tasked with cutting red tape, speeding up procedures and identifying land for development.

As major suppliers of professional services to the Government, Consult Australia members are invited to attend this breakfast to meet with Gary to help develop a better understanding of the Commission's vision for the next 12 months and beyond, and the consulting industry's role in the vision – how we might contribute to the future growth of the Territory and enhance local business and industry capability. The newly produced Infrastructure NT Proposal will also be introduced to Mr Nairn at this breakfast. Limited seating available for this event - for further information and to download the registration form and book now [Click Here](#)

Events....past

December Member Breakfast - Members met with **The Hon Adam Giles MLA, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Transport, Minister for Local Government** for a discussion on the vision of the new government in regards to infrastructure for NT - upcoming major projects, capability and capacity for project delivery in the NT and how Consult Australia can collaborate with the government and industry stakeholders to ensure a depth of resources within the industry in the near future and beyond, to better deliver successful outcomes.

Stephen Hoyne, Executive Director – Major Projects, Dept of Infrastructure was also in attendance and we now look forward to continued discussions through this avenue.





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New Members

Welcome to:

- **ADG Engineers (Aust)**
- **SLR Consulting**
- **Aquenta Consulting**

Consult Australia represents 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.

Are you a member yet? Contact Jan Irvine, State Manager SA/NT for further information on membership services and benefits at E: jan@consultaaustralia.com.au

Industry News

IPWEA International Public Works Conference, Darwin 11-15 August 2013

The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) is bringing the premier event on the public works calendar to Darwin from 11-15 August 2013. Call Ross Moody on 0417 955 394 or email rmoody@ipwea.org.au for more details or visit www.ipwea.org.au/Darwin2013. Share your knowledge and experience! Being held for the first time in the NT, the IPWEA International Public Works Conference provides a rare event for consultants to engage with key stakeholders in the public works industry from the NT and across Australia. The conference, exhibition and associated social events provide opportunities for learning, networking and building relationships.

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