

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

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NT DIVISION NEWS

Policy Update

NT UPDATE

LAFHA: The federal Government has released an exposure draft Bill for its proposed changes to the tax treatment of Living Away From Home Allowances (LAFHA). The reforms tighten the eligibility criteria so that the tax benefit is only available if you live away from a home in Australia for up to 12 months. There are several effects of the changes: Australia will be less attractive to temporary skilled migrants, most temporary skilled migrants will lose the tax benefits of LAFHA and employers may be forced to fill the effective pay gap, this may in turn lead to broader wage inflation for all employees. Consult Australia will submit comments on the exposure draft Bill. We have also met with, or have meetings planned with, the offices of the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and the Shadow Assistant Treasurer. For more information, see the following links: [Assistant Treasurer's media release](#), [Treasury Consultation information](#), and [explanatory statement for the exposure draft Bill](#).

Senate Inquiry into the engineering skills shortage: The [federal Senate inquiry](#) into the nexus between the demand for infrastructure delivery and the shortage of appropriate engineering and related employment skills in Australia is expected to deliver its report by 30 June 2012.

Registration: Consult Australia and its partners in the National Engineering Registration Board (NERB) met on Wednesday, 4 June to discuss the next steps in its efforts to see the introduction of a national registration scheme for engineers. With the creation of a COAG Business Advisory Forum to drive such reforms, NERB will create a new communications plan to drive its engagement with government and the Forum. This will include renewed lobbying in each jurisdiction and communications with members and their employees. Jurisdictions that are supportive of a registration scheme are: WA, SA, TAS, **NT**, QLD and ACT. Those yet to be convinced are: VIC and NSW.

Events...upcoming

NT Industry Update

Responding to Risk – Are you Ready?

Wednesday 25 July 2012

Darwin Convention Centre

Work in the built & natural environment? An invitation is extended to all those providing professional services including but not limited to: design; architecture; technology; engineering; surveying; legal; and management solutions to attend the NT Division's Industry Update on responding to risk.

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Join us to consider two of the largest risks confronting any firm working in the built environment. Recent changes to the Work Health and Safety (WHS) legislation create new obligations and it is critical consultants working within the industry are aware of their obligations under the new WHS legislation.

- **Romi Slaven, Senior Associate, Clayton Utz** will give an overview of the new **Safety in Design** codes of practice under the Model WHS Act, and the implications to your business.
- Risk allocation in contracts is a long standing issue for consultants. **Jonathan Cartledge, Director of Policy, Consult Australia** will provide an overview of Consult Australia's key concerns in this area as well as the practical benefits of **AS4122** in addressing these concerns.
- A facilitated Q&A session will follow the presentations, allowing thorough investigation and discussion of these issues.

A networking hour with drinks and canapés on the concourse will follow the presentations, allowing further discussion between industry peers, colleagues and the speakers.

As this event is open to all, feel free to forward the invitation to business colleagues and contacts. [Click Here](#) to **BOOK NOW!**

NT - An overview...the last 6 months

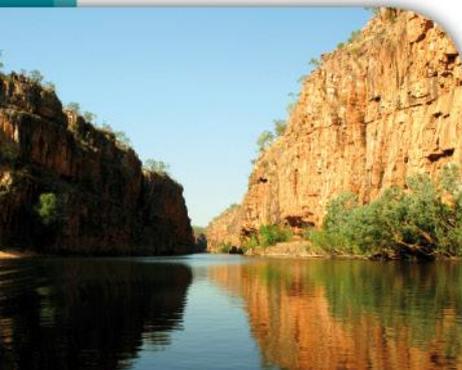
The NT Division, lead by **NT Chair Jaswant Deo** of RP Project Management has continued to build on the work done within the last half of 2011.

Meetings....

NT Civil Working Group: The Civil Working Group between Consult Australia and the NT Department of Construction & Infrastructure has held three meetings, two of which have taken place in 2012. These meetings were initially aimed at fostering greater dialogue between Consult Australia and the Department. As these meetings progressed, the Department increasingly expressed their interest in the work that Consult Australia does and has since been successfully signed up as Consult Australia's first member under the new Affiliate membership category. Consult Australia Director of Policy, Jonathan Cartledge met with the NT Department of Construction & Infrastructure to discuss opportunities to continue to work together and create value through their Affiliate membership. We expect the next meeting to be held in July.

Breakfasts....

NT Department of Business and Employment: The NT Division held a Member Breakfast in February 2012 with the CEO and Executive Director of Business & Industry Development from the Department of Business and Employment. Seven NT Committee members attended the meeting to foster and encourage ongoing dialogue between Consult Australia and the Department. Since the breakfast meeting, Consult Australia Director of Policy, Jonathan Cartledge has met with the Department of Employment and Business Director of Whole of Government Procurement Policy, Business and Industry Development, Julie Jenkins, to discuss AS4122-2010. They requested a formal submission on the benefits of AS4122-2010 for their further consideration which was formally submitted on 14 May 2012. A follow up meeting will be held in July.





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A Member Breakfast in May 2012 to meet with **The Hon Gerry McCarthy MLA, Minister for Lands and Planning, Minister for Transport, Minister for Construction** was held to discuss how Consult Australia member firms can work with the Department of Construction and Infrastructure and collaborate with other industry stakeholders to ensure a depth of resources to keep abreast of demand within the industry in the near future and beyond. Unfortunately the Minister was unable to attend at the last minute and Ms Tegan Berg, the Departmental Liaison Officer for the Dept of Construction and Infrastructure attended on his behalf. Consult Australia hopes to reschedule a meeting with the Minister in the upcoming months to address local issues such as:

- Project/program delivery methods
- Contracting and harmonisation of regulation
- Alliance models
- Funding
- Improving the Northern Territory's infrastructure

Member News

Call for photos: The Department of Transport and Planning, Major Cities Unit has contacted Consult Australia with an opportunity for our member firms to contribute photos for the [State of Australian Cities](#) 2012 report. This is a great opportunity for **Consult Australia member firms** to have their work profiled in this publication, which, in 2010, was downloaded over half a million times. Please send high resolution photos of Australian cities and urban environments, with required attributions noted, to [Gillian O'Young](#) by COB Friday, 6 July.

2012/13 NT Division Sponsor Package

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