

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2012



NT DIVISION NEWS

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

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Policy Update

NT UPDATE

476 visa: In response to two years of lobbying by Consult Australia, the Minister for Immigration has agreed to reform the eligibility criteria for recent graduates of engineering degrees wishing to live and work in Australia. Under the new rules that are expected to be made public within the month, applicants must have graduated within the last two years with an engineering course that is accredited and recognised under the Engineers Australia-endorsed Washington Accord. This greatly expands the pool of applicants, whilst maintaining good quality controls. It is hoped that the reformed visa will bring more high-quality graduates to Australia and may lead to better quality employees being available to smaller and regional firms.

Registration: Representatives from Consult Australia and the National Engineering Registration Board (NERB) will meet with federal Shadow Minister for Finance, Deregulation and Debt Reduction, Andrew Robb on 10 October. Achieving a registration scheme will take many years, and such meetings are important for ensuring that all major decision-makers across the political spectrum understand the need for the registration scheme.

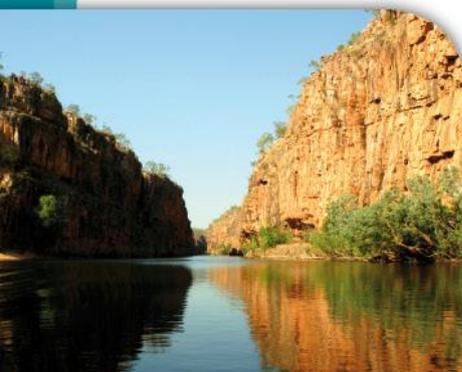
Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) 5/6: Consult Australia and SkillsDMC have formed an 'industry expert panel' to review the qualifications available for training engineering associates and drafters. The panel includes Consult Australia, Arup, SKM, TAFE representatives, Engineers Australia and SkillsDMC. The panel met on 6 September to begin building a new qualification to ensure the continued supply of engineering associates with the skills needed by the consulting sector. This project is very significant because, without it, current training courses to deliver the staff members needs would cease to exist from mid-2013.

WHS guidance tools nearing development: The development of WHS guidance tools for member firms to transition to the new WHS system is nearing finalisation. Consult Australia is currently planning a launch event, scheduled to be held in Sydney on the Thursday, 25 October.

Member News

Over the last few months, our activities have been impacted by the election and change of government in the Territory, however we will now move back to 'business as usual' in regard to our ongoing advocacy on behalf of our members. Letters of congratulations and

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introduction to Consult Australia have been sent to The Chief Minister and relevant Ministers. We would expect to begin meeting and engaging with Ministers and senior staff within key departments in the near future, after a short settling in period has occurred for the new government.

On a recent visit to Darwin, Jonathan Cartledge, Director of Policy and Jan Irvine, State Manager SA/NT, together with Jaswant Deo (NT Chair) and Chris Lee (NT Executive Committee member) met with Adil Jamil, Project Director Engineering Services (Department of Construction and Infrastructure) to plan a way forward for the department and industry to collaborate on issues as wide ranging as procurement, skills shortages, training and education and managing project pipelines. It was agreed there was much in common and further discussion on ways to work together can now commence with the new Northern Territory Government.

Member Breakfast events will resume in November and further details will be forwarded as guest speakers are confirmed.

Events....held

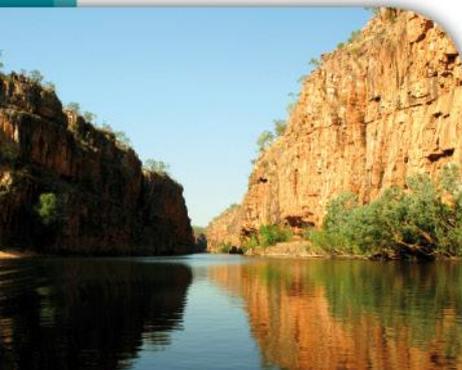
The NT Division hosted a cocktail event on Wednesday 25 July at the Crowne Plaza Darwin, with guest speakers Jonathan Cartledge, Consult Australia Policy Director and Romi Slaven, Senior Associate, Clayton Utz. The presentations considered two of the largest risks confronting any firm working in the built environment. Romi introduced the recent changes to the Work Health and Safety (WHS) legislation which create new obligations and it is critical consultants working within the industry are aware of their obligations under this new legislation. Risk allocation in contracts is a long standing issue for consultants and Jonathan provided an overview of Consult Australia's key concerns in this area as well as the practical benefits of **AS4122** in addressing these concerns.

A Q&A session followed, as well as many questions being fielded throughout the event by both speakers – proving this was a hot topic indeed. Networking opportunities were taken advantage of over the canapés and drinks at the conclusion of the presentations, with the event being one of the Divisions most successful, with a good number of attendees from various government departments, Consult Australia member firms, non members and representatives from other industry bodies.

Industry News

The **Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA)** will host its it's biennial International Public Works Conference *Public Works: Explore New Territory* from August 11-15, 2013 in Darwin. The call for Papers is NOW open. Submit your abstract by Friday 30th November 2012. For further information on the conference [Click Here](#)

ARRB Group, on behalf of Austroads is pleased to offer two workshops based on the Austroads Guide to Road Design series. **The Intersections and Roundabout Design workshop** will be held in Darwin 20-22 November 2012 (earlybird discount valid until 12 October 2012). Have you ever thought about just how crucial good road and intersection design is for both safety and traffic management? Familiarise yourself with best practice relating to the design of intersections (both signalised and unsignalised) and roundabouts on both urban and rural roads, and improve traffic conditions for all road-users. The Intersections at Grade workshop





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will cover the current AGRD04A-10 Guide to Road Design Part 4A: Unsignalised and Signalised Intersections, while the Roundabouts workshop will be based on AGRD04B-11 Guide to Road Design Part 4B: Roundabouts.

These workshops cover both traffic management issues as well as geometric design considerations at intersections and roundabouts. [Click Here](#) for the registration form and extra info

Comprehensive BIM Practice Documents Available for Free Download

Consult Australia, in partnership with the [Australian Institute of Architects](#) (AIA), is pleased to announce the release of the first comprehensive suite of Building Information Modelling (BIM) documents for our industry. The documents cover topics such as addressing liability and contract issues when working with BIM and are freely available for download from the joint [Consult Australia / AIA website](#).

National Executive Leadership Program

Consult Australia's Executive Leadership Program is tailored to produce measurable and lasting change that transforms leaders and improves organisational performance. Designed to resource leaders with robust, credible and recognised data that will enable them to inspire and lead their teams to the best possible outcomes. Understanding the demands on every manager's time, the program is delivered through a series of face to face (3 x 2 days), Tele-classes and one on one coaching. To find out more [click here](#).

2012/13 NT Division Sponsor Package

CONSULT AUSTRALIA NT Division can tailor a sponsorship package to suit – including selected events, advertising and branding. Investment packages are designed to ensure maximum value for the sponsor's marketing dollar.

SPONSORSHIP IS A GREAT WAY TO

- Establish new business networks
- Establish and maintain brand awareness
- Maximise your marketing investment through our cost effective communication channels
- Create brand experience by participating in activities
- Enjoy high level peer to peer networking and business relationship building

Contact Jan Irvine, State Manager SA/NT regarding Sponsorship enquiries, this newsletter or for any Consult Australia NT enquiries at **E: jan@consultaaustralia.com.au** or on (08) 8216 1177.

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