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Driving business success for consulting firms in the built and natural environment

13 September 2022

Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSCO Maintenance

By email to: anzSCO.maintenance@abs.gov.au

To whom it may concern,

RE: ANZSCO targeted update 2022

Consult Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide further feedback on the proposed changes for inclusion in the ANZSCO 2022 Australian Update due for release in November 2022. In this update, the ABS' focus is on construction-related trade occupations.

Consult Australia is the industry association representing consulting businesses in design, advisory and engineering, an industry comprised of over 58,600 businesses across Australia. This includes some of Australia's top 500 companies and many small businesses (97%). Our members provide solutions for individual consumers through to major companies in the private sector and across all tiers of government. Our industry directly employs over 285,000 people in architectural, engineering and technical services and many more in advisory and business support. It is also a job creator for the Australian economy, the services we provide unlock many more jobs across the construction industry and the broader community.

We [contributed to the consultation on updating the ANZSCO in March 2022](#) and we wish to highlight some developments since that time.

Recognition of Data Engineer in the 2022 update is welcomed

We welcome the proposed inclusion of Data Engineer as an emerging occupation. Specialist skills such as data engineering as well as energy efficiency engineer, rail engineer, bushfire consultant, human factors consultant and sustainability engineer are particularly hard to recruit for as they require lengthy qualifications and accreditations to meet the skill level. Access to these roles whether it be through education, training, or global market recruitment is further complicated when the occupations do not have a specific classification code under ANZSCO.

Further, many of these occupations are the result of emerging industry developments in technology and digitalisation, which is rapidly updating, and are critical skills for our industry. However, without ANZSCO recognition they cannot be added to the skills priority list, or sufficiently prioritised in education and skilled migration policies.

Consult Australia advocates for the recognition of energy efficiency engineer, rail engineer, fire engineer, bushfire consultant, and human factors consultant in the next targeted update.

Recognition of specialist skills and STEM occupations in ANZSCO is critical

As noted in our March submission, we are concerned that specialist skills which are vital for the success of Australia's construction and infrastructure workforce are not being prioritised. In this update, the focus is on construction-related trade occupations – ignoring the non-trade occupations.

Nothing can be built before it is designed and design consultants such as engineers, scientists and architects are in critical shortage across Australia. The [Infrastructure Australia – Public Infrastructure Workforce Supply Dashboard](#) estimated that in July 2022 there was a net deficit of 52,100 engineers, scientists and architects needed to meet the demand from public infrastructure projects.

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Updating ANZSCO to recognise new and emerging occupations in engineering, science and architecture is vital to support consistency and clarity for employers who need to source talent from the global market. It also will help ensure that construction-related trades have work.

Conclusion

The Prime Minister has acknowledged the need for *'more paths to permanent migration rather than just temporary labour'* and that *'engineers...have had skills shortages not for a year, but for decades.'*¹ Consult Australia hopes that the next targeted update of ANZSCO will address the historical challenges for the design consulting sector.

I invite you to contact me directly at teone@consultaaustralia.com.au to arrange a meeting to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

Teone Tobin
Senior Policy Advisor

¹ [Transcript 29 August 2022, Prime Minister at the National Press Club.](#)