



January 2023 Skills Priority List Survey

JOBS AND SKILLS AUSTRALIA

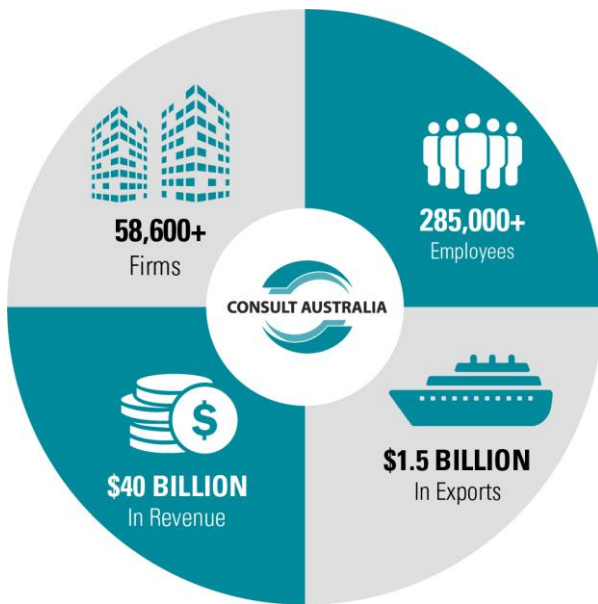
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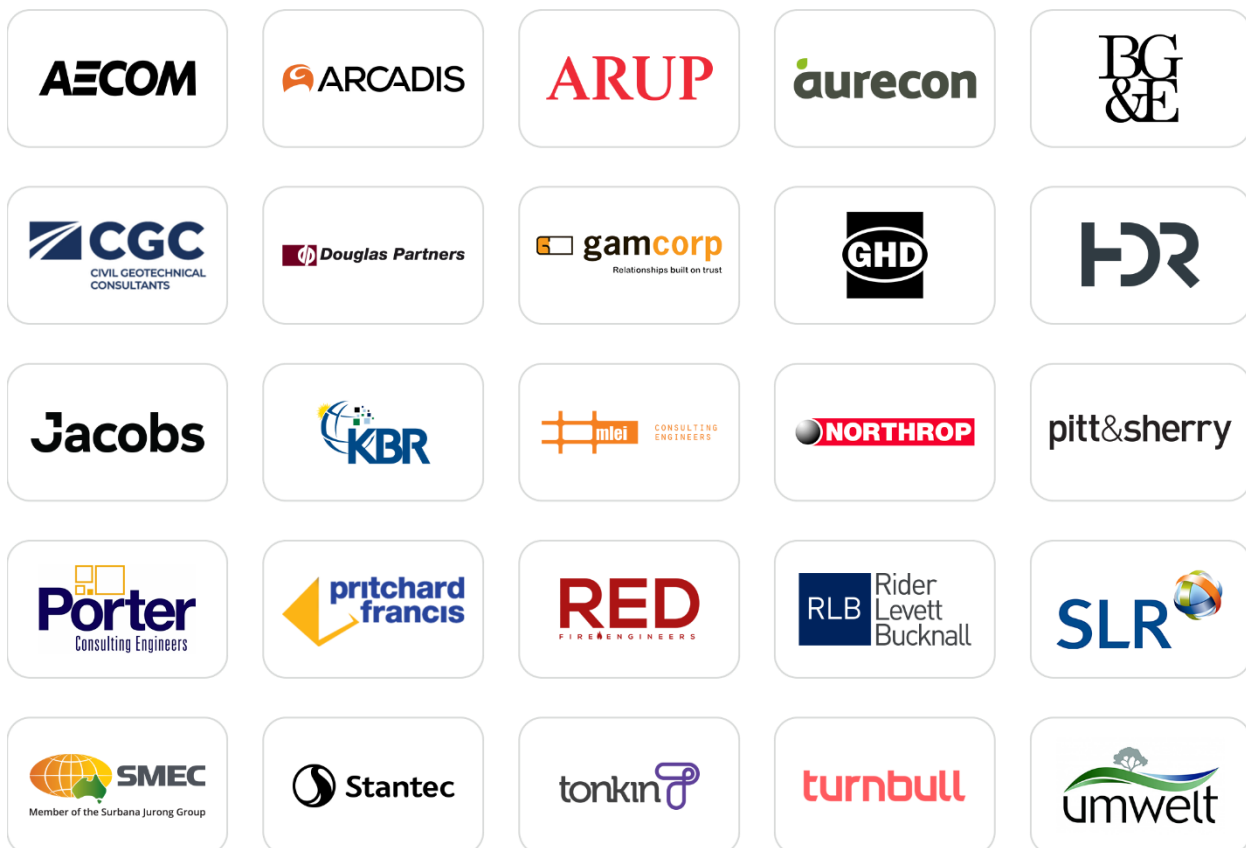
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ABOUT US

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.



Our members include:



A full membership list is available at: <https://www.consultaustralia.com.au/home/about-us/members>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consult Australia is pleased to contribute to the Jobs and Skills Australia's 2023 Skills Priority List Survey. Our commentary is based on member feedback during 2022 and our 2022 skills survey (to be published in early 2023). Most of the Australian New Zealand Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) occupations relevant to our industry, particularly in the engineering profession remains in shortage making capacity a core issue for our members throughout 2022 and impacting on future projects into 2023 and 2024.

Consult Australia notes Jobs and Skills Australia has lowered the future demand rating (between 2021 to 2022) for Civil Engineer, Quantity Surveyor, Structural Engineer, Transport Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Geologist and Hydrogeologist. However, Consult Australia notes from its own member feedback as well as Infrastructure Australia's two Market Capacity Reports ([October 2021](#) and [November 2022](#)) that engineering remains in critical demand and will remain so until at least 2024. Therefore, these occupations should be prioritised accordingly. We agree with Jobs and Skills Australia that demand remains for Geotechnical Engineer, Engineering Manager, and Environmental Engineer.

Our contribution to the 2023 Jobs and Skills Australia's Skills Priority List survey reiterates the need to prioritise the above occupations which continues to be in national shortage and remains in the skills priority list on an ongoing basis.

SURVEY INPUT

ANZSCO occupations and priority

Below are the top occupations, classified in ANZSCO that Consult Australia holds remain as priority. This list is informed by member feedback, data from our 2022 skills survey and IA's Market Capacity Report:

- Civil Engineer (233211)
- Electrical Engineer (233311)
- Engineering Manager (133211)
- Environmental Engineer (233915)
- Environmental Consultant (234312)
- Geologist (234411)
- Geotechnical Engineer (233212)
- Hydrogeologist (234413)
- Mechanical Engineer (233512)
- Quantity Surveyor (233213)
- Structural Engineer (233214)
- Transport Engineer (233215).

Consult Australia confirms that our member businesses are struggling to find people in these occupations, whether that be in a specific location or nationally. Consult Australia recommends that all occupations listed above remain in shortage on the skills priority list rating.

Occupations yet to be recognised in ANZSCO

The Survey provides an opportunity for feedback on occupations not covered in ANZSCO. Consult Australia provided feedback through our submission to the [Australian Bureau of Statistics on the 2022 update of the ANZSCO](#). The submission highlighted the importance of recognising the following occupations that are not classified under ANZSCO classification of occupations:

- Data Engineer – this was recognised as an emerging occupation in the 2022 update but without any specific classification code
- Energy Efficiency Engineer
- Rail Engineer (confusion whether Transport Engineer covers this occupation remains)
- Bushfire Consultant
- Human Factors Consultant
- Sustainability Engineer.

Additionally, our members noted that the occupations below are also not covered in the ANZSCO classification of occupations but are in shortage (Consult Australia would be pleased to receive advice if these occupations fit within an existing ANZSCO code):

- Sustainability Consultant
- GIS Analyst
- Hydrologist.

Consult Australia recommends for the regular updating of ANZSCO to recognise new and emerging occupations in the labour market, particularly for engineering related occupations. This will ease the skilled migration process through providing employers the opportunity to get skilled migrants from the global talent pool to fill vacancies.

Employer sponsored visas

Based on our 2022 skills survey, members reported using employer sponsored visa programs for most of the above listed occupations that are in national shortage. Consult Australia noted that the processing time of employer sponsored visas was a key concern. While the quickest processing time was listed as 3 weeks, several members reported the processing time as taking between 2-3 months. It is concerning that some members also reported it taking as long as more than 6 months to process.

CONTACT

Consult Australia thanks the Jobs and Skills Australia for the opportunity to contribute to the 2023 Skills Priority List survey. To help shape our advocacy, members are encouraged to provide feedback on occupations that are in critical shortage, whether they be listed under ANZSCO classification of occupations or not.

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