



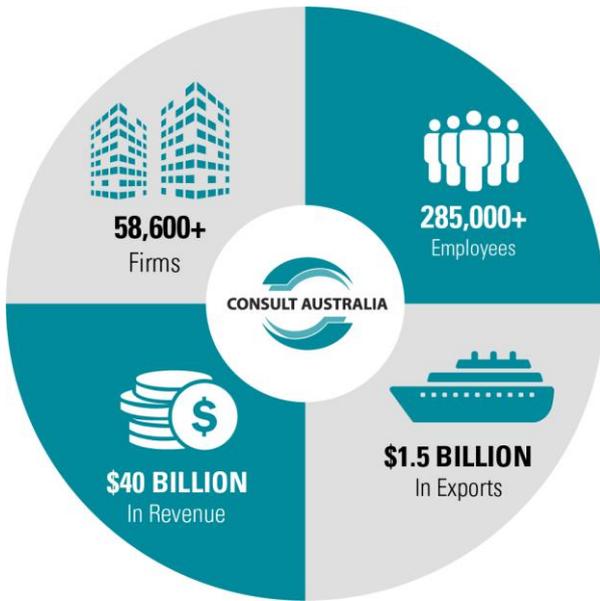
March 2022 Skills Priority List Survey

THE NATIONAL SKILLS COMMISSION

Consult Australia

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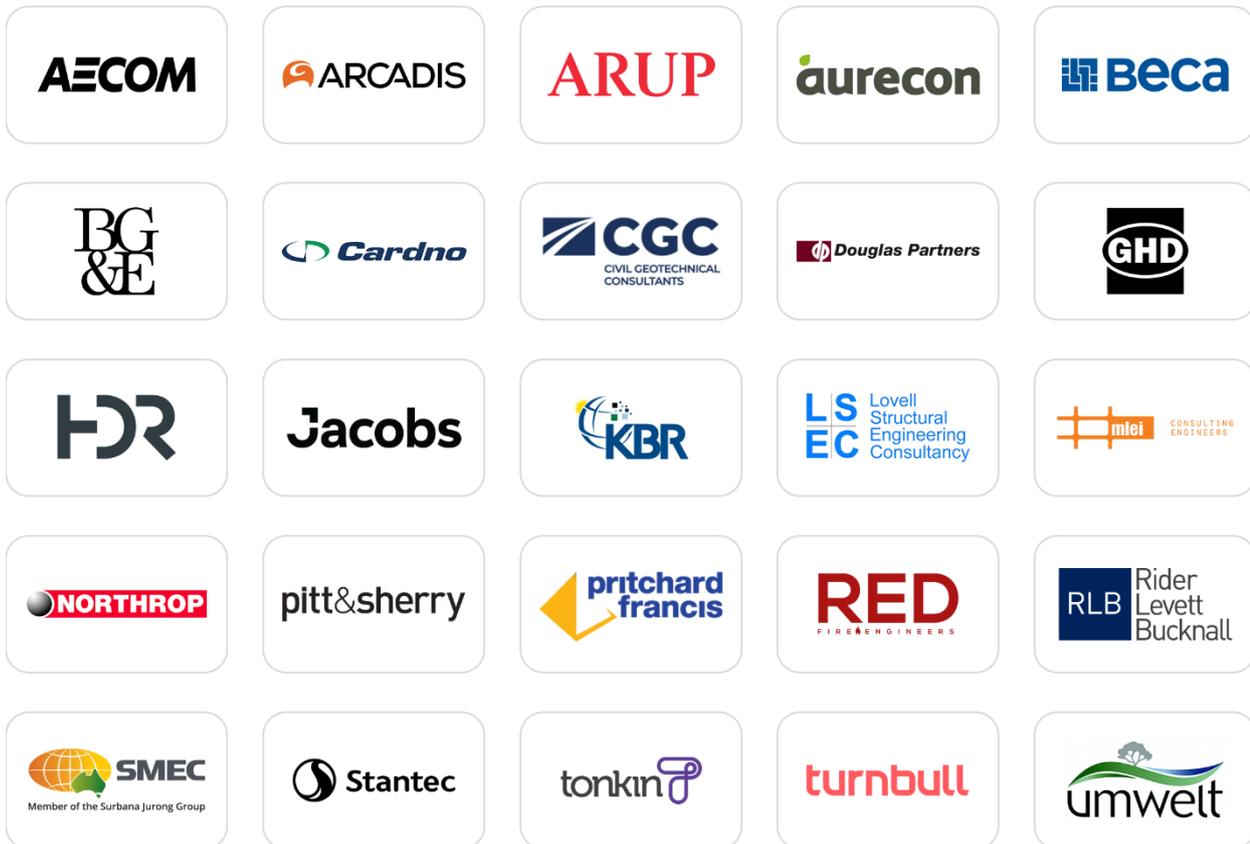
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ABOUT US

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's contribution to the National Skills Commission's Skills Priority List survey was shaped by member feedback, our [2020 Skill Shortages Pulse Survey](#), and the [Infrastructure Australia Market Capacity Report 2021](#). The National Skills Commission Skills Priority List was introduced in September 2020 by the Commonwealth Parliament to provide a pathway for critical skill vacancies to be filled from the global market.

As a result of our advocacy, the following occupations were added to the Priority Migration Skilled Occupation List in 2021:

- Electrical Engineer (233311)
- Civil Engineer (233211)
- Structural Engineer (233214)
- Geotechnical Engineer (233212)
- Transport Engineer (233215)
- Surveyor (232212)

This enabled businesses to apply for priority processing of visa applications for skilled workers, providing some relief to the capacity concerns impacting the industry. Our contribution to the March 2022 Skills Priority List survey reiterates the need to prioritise these occupations, as well as introduces further occupations identified by members as requiring priority attention.

Additionally, the survey welcomed feedback on new and emerging occupations that require classification under the Australian New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). Consult Australia stressed the importance of recognising occupations such as Data Engineers (Digital Engineer/BIM Manager), Energy Efficiency Engineer, Rail Engineer, Fire Engineer, Bushfire Consultants, and Human Factors Consultant.

OCCUPATIONS IN CRITICAL SHORTAGE

Consult Australia identified the below ANZSCO occupations as requiring priority attention, noting they are in national shortage with reports from the locations highlighted. For all occupations bar civil engineer, structural engineer, and civil engineering draftsman the shortages are metro specific. For civil engineer, structural engineer and civil engineering draftsman the shortages are in both metro and regional areas. Consult Australia noted all occupations are in undersupply, with the demand expected to increase over the next five years.

Occupation in shortage	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT
133211 Engineering Manager								
233211 Civil Engineer								
233212 Geotechnical Engineer								
233214 Structural Engineer								
233215 Transport Engineer								
233311 Electrical Engineer								
233512 Mechanical Engineer								
234312 Environmental Consultant								
234411 Geologist								
234413 Hydrogeologist								
263311 Telecommunications Engineer								
312211 Civil Engineering Draftsman								

EMPLOYER SPONSORED VISAS

Members reported using employer sponsored visas all occupations listed above except for geologists and telecommunications engineer. Consult Australia noted concerns about employer sponsored visas:

- The overall process of accessing employer sponsored visas is onerous with members reporting supporting documentation is requested reactively as the process rolls on.
- Members need greater insights into what documentation, actions and information will be required upfront particularly for small businesses that do not undertake the process of obtaining an employer sponsored visa very often.
- COVID-19 significantly reduced the number of employer sponsored visa applications in the last 12 months, while the uptake of permanent residency visa applications increased as people on Skilled Subclass 457/482 were moved to permanent residence status.
- Accredited sponsors find the application process to be efficient and effective.

OCCUPATIONS NOT COVERED IN ANZSCO

The National Skills Commission Skills Priority List survey provides an opportunity for feedback on occupations not covered in ANZSCO. Consult Australia provided feedback based on our submission to the Australian Bureau of Statistics on the [2021 Targeted Update of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations](#).

Consult Australia has since contributed to the 2022 Australian Bureau of Statistics consultation on Updating the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations with new information from members. [Click here to read our submission](#).

FEEDBACK

Capacity and skills continue to be a priority concern for Consult Australia. Members are encouraged to provide feedback to Consult Australia on occupations, whether they be ANZSCO listed or not, that are in critical shortage to help shape our advocacy.

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