

Western Australian Election

Policy Platform – Snapshot

DATE: February 2021



Consult Australia is the industry association representing consulting businesses in design, advisory and engineering. Our industry is a job creator for the Western Australian economy, the services we provide unlock jobs across the construction industry and the broader community.

Consult Australia's policy platform for the 2021 Western Australian Election seeks to emphasise the importance of infrastructure and built environment projects for improving our economic prosperity, creating thriving and sustainable communities, and providing valuable links for people and goods. Improving our approach to these projects will have a compounding effect on economic growth across Western Australia.

While Western Australia's swift and effective public health measures minimised the health impacts of the pandemic and recent high commodity prices have protected the Western Australian economy, the current mini-resources and infrastructure boom places pressures on the state. The consulting industry is looking for government responses and policy measures that balance these issues to ensure a strong and prosperous future. Below we snapshot some key recommendations from our WA Election Policy Platform, access the [full document here](#).

PIPELINE – shaping WA's recovery through a diversified pipeline of projects

Infrastructure and residential development are traditional drivers in responding to economic events. The response to COVID-19 provides us the opportunity to create greater diversity in government investment and policy-setting for a vibrant and sustainable future.

PEOPLE – a sustainable workforce and vibrant workplaces

Skills shortages are already apparent across many Western Australian industries and the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 will continue to escalate this problem. We encourage the development of a multi-faceted skills strategy that will nurture educational opportunities locally and target skilled migration into Western Australia.

PROCUREMENT – delivery better value through improved practices

We call on the Western Australian government to adopt our [Model Client Policy](#) into its procurement practices as well as recommendations of our [Uplifting Productivity](#) report. Procurement practices across state and local government can be particularly damaging to the small and medium enterprises (SME) that support much of Western Australia's economic activity. Procurement reform and the adoption of fair contracts will result in significant benefits to the Western Australian community.

PRACTICE – ensuring a certain and stable regulatory environment

Consult Australia is deeply concerned about the significant hardening of the insurance market, particularly in respect of professional indemnity insurance. This is impacting SMEs as insurance costs increase to levels that make business viability a key challenge. De-risking the market is essential but is not a quick process. In the meantime, our SMEs need short-term relief to remain vital contributors to the economy. One option is to reduce payroll tax for two years as we work together to address the factors driving the hardening of the insurance market (procurement reform being one such priority).