



# Civil Contractors Federation

## Civil Construction – Leading Australia’s Economic Recovery



### The Need for Action

**INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT**

+ The need for sustained infrastructure investment is supported by a CCF survey that shows an overwhelming majority of industry members have the capacity to undertake additional work if Federal Government project funding was increased.

**EFFICIENT, EQUITABLE AND COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT**

+ Government procurement agencies are currently not making full use of the different procurement models available which most appropriately allocate risk. This includes collaborative contract arrangements which involves earlier and closer involvement with industry.

**ENHANCING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

+ Many civil occupations currently do not appear or are not classified appropriately on the National Skills Needs List. This means apprentices, VET providers and employers are not eligible for the full suite of government training incentives available.

**ENHANCING INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

+ Various industrial relations instruments at the state level are imposing unnecessary red tape and legal risk on civil construction companies. This includes for example Queensland Best Practice Industry Conditions (BPIC) and the ACT Secure Local Jobs Code.

**BUILDING A STRONGER, MORE SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY**

+ Governments are failing to disaggregate major projects which limit the ability of tier 2 and tier 3 companies to successfully tender for these projects. Disaggregation will foster broader competition and a more sustainable contracting industry at both head contractor and subcontractor levels.



**CIVIL CONTRACTORS FEDERATION**

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# CIVIL CONSTRUCTION – LEADING AUSTRALIA’S ECONOMIC RECOVERY



It is my pleasure to present *Civil Construction – Leading Australia’s Economic Recovery* which contains the National Policy Priorities of the Civil Contractors Federation National (CCF).

The Civil Contractors Federation is the peak national representative body for the civil construction industry in Australia, providing on behalf of our members and industry a clear, unified and strong voice on the critical issues affecting the sector. Our 1900 members, who range from tier 1, 2, 3, 4, SME’s and one-person ABN holders, are responsible for the construction and maintenance of Australia’s civil infrastructure.

Action on CCF’s National Policy Priorities and associated activities is vital to harness the productive capacity of the civil construction sector, to achieve a stronger and more sustainable civil construction industry and to strengthen Australia’s sovereign capability.

**Chris Melham**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Civil Contractors Federation National

## The Economic Capacity of the Civil Construction Sector

CCF’s report *Rebuilding Australia – A Plan for a Civil Infrastructure Led Recovery* provides evidence that civil construction is critical to Australia’s economic future and underpins the need for action on CCF’s National Policy Priorities. It also provides recommendations to harness the economic capacity of the civil construction sector, including:

- + improved planning and risk management
- + streamlining and reforming the tendering process
- + greater consideration of more collaborative procurement models
- + more appropriate contractual risk allocation
- + a greater focus on skills and training

## CCF’S POLICY PRIORITIES

### INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

- + Sustained growth of federal infrastructure investment to underpin construction activity and improve economic growth
- + Deliver a 15–20-year pipeline of sustainable infrastructure projects by using debt funding as part of the overall government funding mechanism
- + Equitable distribution of projects and funding across all states and territories

### EFFICIENT, EQUITABLE AND COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT

- + Increase industry capacity of tier 2, 3 and below by including minimum local content requirement for all government contracts
- + Greater use of collaborative contracting by all tiers of government
- + Fair and equitable contract terms and risk allocation

### ENHANCING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

- + Reinstate civil occupations on the National Skills Needs List to achieve a more equitable distribution of training and upskilling funding to apprentices, employers and accredited service providers in the civil sector
- + Change ANZSCO Codes to recognise relevant civil streams
- + Work collaboratively with Government to maintain and promote a sustainable civil construction workforce

### ENHANCING INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

- + Retention of the Australian Building and Construction Commission
- + Retention of the Registered Organisations Commission
- + Abolition of industrial relations instruments which impose unjust legal risk on civil construction companies.

### BUILDING A STRONGER, MORE SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY

- + Greater project disaggregation to maximise participation of tier 2, 3 and below contractors
- + Support the employment of local people on projects
- + Reduce red tape and inconsistent regulatory practices and approval processes
- + Investment in People, Technology and Safety to strengthen industry sustainability