



CIVIL CONTRACTORS FEDERATION

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SUBMISSION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE INQUIRY INTO EMPLOYMENT IN THE ENVIRONMENT SECTOR.

The following submission has been prepared specifically to address the points raised in you Terms of Reference document and your invitation for comment:

The current contribution of environmental goods and services to employment in Australia

Civil Contractors Federation National Prequalification System

A key initiative of the CCF is the promotion of its National Prequalification management system. This integrated management system contains the essential elements of ISO 9000/2000 for quality, ISO 14001 for environmental management and AS 4801 for occupational health and safety. The Prequalification system addresses waste as part of the contractor's environment management practices, and the take-up of the system by members has been pleasing and continues to increase.

The system has a very strong foothold in Victoria where most major client groups from VicRoads and the water authorities have adopted the system.

In South Australia, several contractors are coming up for their second round of external auditing and substantial progress has been made in Western Australia in introducing the system. In Western Australia, the Water Corporation is proposing to make CCF's IMS a mandatory requirement for works up to \$M2 in value. Also the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) has made the system (or similar) a requirement for all forest roading contracts.

The Roads and Traffic Authority in NSW recently has accepted the system in determining acceptable standards for registration of contractors.

In Queensland, Main Roads is presently assessing the CCF Prequalification program to ascertain its suitability to meet the pre-registration/ Prequalification requirements for contractors performing works in that state.

In Tasmania, the Department of Infrastructure, Resources and Energy is now requiring the CCF Prequalification system (or its equivalent) as a pre-requisite to tendering for road construction and maintenance.

In addition, many municipal councils and other clients are requiring their contractors to have the system as a minimum level of evidence of management capability.

This of course delivers the principles of waste identification, management and recycling to an ever-increasing group of contractors, clients and consultants.

The CCF Integrated Management System enables contractors around Australia to more successfully meet their obligations and manage the risks associated with works impacting on the environment. The scheme, environmentally speaking is far in advance of other sectors of the building and construction industry.

Case Earth Awards

These prestigious awards are being increasingly sought each year. There are 3 categories based on project size – Category 1, \$0 - \$2 million; Category 2, \$2-10 million; Category 3, \$10 million plus.

The awards are for construction excellence in the minimisation of environmental impact during the course of normal construction – such as would occur during construction of any of the

nation's infrastructure – and for projects involved in the remediation and rehabilitation of existing or potential environmental problems.

Entries are called for all 3 categories in all states and territories, and a new category for construction excellence in the course of normal construction, which has a strong emphasis on recycling.

In the judging criteria there are 4 discrete sections

- Environmental Management
- Environmental Impact
- Project Management
- Construction Practice / Technique

In the Environmental Impact Section there is a criteria 'Resource Recycling/Re-use'. All entries score highly in this section, in some cases resource recycling has been applied to almost 100% of on-site materials.

CCF Branches are very much involved in the promotion of waste minimisation and are the drivers of the CCF Prequalification system and play a vital role in identifying potential Case Earth Awards entries. Some branches are also involved in similar projects at a state level, NSW Branch with the Construction and Demolition Waste Minimisation Awards and the Victorian Branch is a signatory to the Vic Roads and Department of Infrastructure and the Environment Protection Authority Waste Reduction Agreement.

CCF remains committed to promoting waste minimisation and recycling as not only best practice but as continuing employment opportunities for our members.

The future potential growth, including barriers and opportunities for growth of environmental goods and services and impact on employment.

The CCF believes one of the major areas holding back employment opportunities in the public sector is an apparent lack of willingness by some state governments and government departments to require higher environmental standards and compliance for their own goods and services.

Also CCF is of the opinion that State Governments could be doing more to reduce the volume of potential recyclable materials going to waste depots.

Encouraging or even mandating such policies could create substantial employment opportunities.

Current status and future requirements for an appropriately skilled workforce

Once again, CCF believes that all levels of Government through various compliance measures should be setting higher standards / criteria to make environmental awareness / training mandatory, eg. In their Capital Works Projects - environmental management and training should be a Prequalification to tender.

The Civil Construction industry presently has an aging workforce. Every effort should be made to encourage younger people to join the industry through appropriate skills programs. The environmental awareness of young people will only help the industry go to the next stage.

Similarly, re-skilling older workers could enhance their ability to embrace the changed work practices now being demanded.

There is also a growing industry to supply environmental impact instrumentation systems such as sophisticated dust monitors, vibration monitors and associated alarm systems for infill construction such as site rehabilitation, inner city development (structural and new utilities) and new stages of housing estates.

Appropriate policy measures that could encourage the further development of the environmental goods and services sector.

While the industry itself seeks to reward contractors for embracing environmental best practice and leadership, the CCF believes that government incentive programs could be used to build on that momentum. For instance, examples of innovation within the civil construction arena could be further developed to more commercial levels and export opportunities.

Information and reporting systems that would support the uptake of environmental goods and services to enhance overall business performance and development of the sector.

A register of goods and services available could be useful not only to the end users but to contractors seeking better methods of doing the work now being tendered. While there are some existing commercial listings, there may be scope for a more consolidated on-line service. CCF has an existing facility that could be simply expanded to provide this.

Prepared on behalf of the CCF by;

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(No Signature Due To Electronic Transmission)

