

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **CONTRACTORS WELCOME GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO *RESOURCING THE FUTURE* REPORT**

The Australian Constructors Association (ACA) today welcomed the announcement by the Australian Government that it had accepted the 31 recommendations of the National Resources Sector Employment Taskforce (NRSET).

"ACA was pleased to participate in this initiative and congratulates the Government in supporting the *Resourcing the Future* recommendations," said Mr Peter Brecht, President of the Australian Constructors Association.

"The recommendations are comprehensive and ambitious in their scale. However, to succeed they will require a much closer working relationship between the industry, Government, the education sector, industry skills councils and training providers.

"It is important that Australia builds a sustainable workforce for the resources sector. While we will always need flexible immigration programs in the long term we have to maximise the participation by Australians and in particular draw on those sectors of the workforce that have been under-utilised – including women, indigenous people and the long-term unemployed.

"The construction industry is pleased that the Government has supported in-principle, the introduction of Enterprise Migration Agreements for mega resource projects and noted that discussions between industry participants and the Government had been progressing well.

"The construction industry is conscious that the use of temporary migration programs is a politically tough issue but I am sure that we can get the balance right. The reality is that given ongoing and projected skill shortages, overseas skilled workers will be needed for a considerable time and we need efficient arrangements in place to manage their participation in the Australian workforce," Mr Brecht said.

Mr Brecht also welcomed the announcement that Expressions of Interest had been called for the Critical Skills Investment Fund (CSIF) which was announced last year.

"The CSIF initiative will provide \$200 million in co-funding for industry partnerships and represents a real opportunity to test innovative training and employment programs," Mr Brecht said.

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