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29 June 2021

Tēnā koe Ross,

SUBMISSION: 2050 Infrastructure Strategy – s6.1 Establish a major projects leadership academy

This submission is on behalf of Connexis, the Infrastructure Industry Training Organisation for New Zealand, gazetted with the standard setting for the infrastructure sector of Civil Construction, 3Waters, Electricity Supply and Telecommunications.

Our submission is specific to S6.1 of the consultation document on the establishment of a major projects leadership academy. Connexis has developed, in partnership with industry and in consultation with New Zealand procurement specialists, a Level 6 Procurement Procedures Qualification that sits on the New Zealand Qualification Framework, making it a nationally recognised standard. This qualification is aimed at procurement practitioners, procurement managers, planners and tender evaluators.

Connexis agrees that there needs to be further formalised standards of procurement practice at all levels and would support the development of a higher-level procurement qualification that is aimed at senior leader and governance levels involved in major infrastructure projects. Similar to the UK example provided, Connexis agrees this should be in partnership with a New Zealand tertiary institution to set national standard and learnings from overseas should be taken into consideration during development.

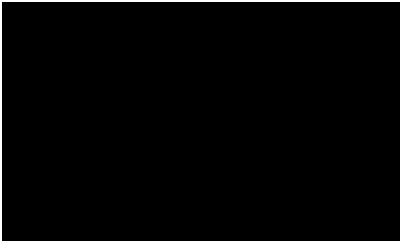
Connexis would further support the development of a procurement skills framework that outlines the skills required at the different levels of procurement and across the different infrastructure stakeholders within projects. This should incorporate the contractor's skill requirements in terms of contract management. This framework should be aligned to nationally recognised qualifications, and micro credentials where required, that meet the skill requirements at each level. The framework should show a clear career pathway for procurement specialists to develop their skills to meet the role requirements as they progress through their career.

Having skilled strategic procurement leaders in New Zealand is of critical importance to help address the infrastructure gap New Zealand is facing, as outlined in the Infrastructure Strategy Consultation Document. Mandating skill requirements is proven as an effective means of quickly lifting the uptake of qualifications within industry. Given this, Connexis would support mandating of skill requirements, not only at a director level but across all levels of the procurement framework within New Zealand.

For successful rollout of the framework and mandated training, it would be important to understand the current skills held by expert leaders and how they would be recognised against the new requirements, along with a plan of having enough people holding the mandated qualifications to meet requirements within the timeframe set.

Thank you for the opportunity to input into the Aotearoa New Zealand Infrastructure Strategy.

Nāku noa, nā



Chief Executive

