

CIDA

CIDA Conference - Prescription for Reform

Delegates to the third CIDA Conference in Melbourne in May had the opportunity to develop their own preferred agendas for the next phase of the reform process. Tables of ten delegates each were asked to rank fourteen issues for their importance, and to give priorities to the five issues which they thought were most important.

Here are the top five priorities.

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| 1st | Rationalisation of contractual relationships, especially the allocation of risk between the parties. |
| Equal 2nd | More effective Management practices, including project management, design of work packages and selection of subcontractors. |
| Equal 2nd | Improved training for management and workers. |
| 4th | Better project definition, including more complete contract documentation. |
| 5th | Improved technical efficiency and |

capability, including a significant lift in research and development effort.

Four other issues were identified as requiring further work.

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| 6th | More efficient and flexible work practices and arrangements. |
| 7th | Improvements in safety standards and working environment. |
| Equal 8th | Improved export performance. |
| Equal 8th | Improved security and continuity of employment for workers. |

This list has no magic to it, but is a good reflection of the immediate concerns of the two hundred delegates who participated in the session, and provides the incoming ACIC members with a useful rule of thumb to gauge industry's preferences.

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Post CIDA Construction Industry Council

- Paula Gerber-Jones,
Mallesons Stephen Jaques, Solicitors.

The Construction Industry Development Agency (CIDA) ceased to exist on the 30th June 1995. CIDA left the construction industry with many valuable recommendations contained in the numerous publications developed over the last few years. Both the Government and industry are eager to maintain the momentum of reform. To this end Senator Chris Schacht, the Federal Minister for Small Business, Customs & Construction has recently announced the formation of a new Construction Industry Council. The Council consists of 11 prominent members of the industry, namely:

Chair

- Mr Ross Dunning, Chief Executive Officer, Evans Deakin Ltd, Qld.

Members

- Mr Ian Wallbank, Managing Director, AMEC Constructions Pty Ltd.
- Ms Louise Cox, Director, McConnel Smith & Johnson Pty Ltd.

- Mr Peter Devitt, Managing Director, L.U. Simon Pty Ltd.
- Mr Jack Ritch, Head of Property, AMP Investments Australia.
- Mr Geoffrey Allen, Deputy Chairman and Managing Director, Multiplex Constructions.
- Mr John Mellors, Secretary, Commonwealth Department of Administrative Services.
- Ms Anne Howe, Chief Executive Officer, Department of Building Management.
- Mr John Sutton, National Secretary, CFMEU.
- Mr Bruce Wilson, Secretary of National Construction Branch, AWU FIMEE.
- Mr Brian Fraser, National President, Australian Manufacturing Workers Union.

The Council Members were selected following consultation with the industry. They have been selected for their expertise and commitment to reform, and represent the major industry sectors: suppliers, clients and unions.

Senator Schacht said "I am confident they will provide