



**AUSTRALIAN OWNED
CONTRACTORS**

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW MEMBERS IN BATTLE FOR A BETTER DEAL FOR AUSTRALIAN MID-TIER CONTRACTORS

Australian Owned Contractors (AOC) has welcomed two New South Wales civil construction firms to the national fight for a fairer deal for homegrown Mid-Tier contractors on major public infrastructure projects.

Well known and highly regarded construction firms, Abergeldie Complex Infrastructure and Diona, are now part of the peak lobby group coordinating efforts to ensure that governments nationwide don't ignore head contract leadership opportunities for Australian owned Mid-Tier companies.

CEO Brent Crockford said the involvement of Diona and Abergeldie Complex Infrastructure sees the AOC now representing the interests of 14 of Australia's most experienced, locally owned Mid-Tier companies, comprising more than 13,000 employees and subcontractors.

"The AOC is working to force action and change to procurement processes for big taxpayer-funded projects across the country so that multi-billion-dollar tender packages are no longer bundled to favour big foreign owned Tier One construction firms," Mr Crockford said.

"The involvement of Abergeldie Complex Infrastructure and Diona helps to demonstrate the breadth and depth of our domestic Mid-Tier civil construction industry with both committed to join the fight for local opportunity and competition, local skills development and domestic company growth."

Diona, headquartered in Baulkham Hills, was founded in 1980 and offers solutions covering all aspects of design, construction, renewals and maintenance. Delivering essential community infrastructure for water, wastewater, gas, electricity and transport solutions, the company thrives on technically challenging projects in complex locations such as busy CBD precincts, high density residential communities and environmentally sensitive rivers and creeks. Diona has grown to operate a team of over 500 across its Australian operations.

Abergeldie Complex Infrastructure was established by Mick Boyle in 1994 and started from a Sydney office before expanding operations throughout eastern Australia and internationally – New Zealand and Northern Ireland. The company designs and constructs complex infrastructure including such as water and wastewater treatment facilities, dams, bridges, tunnels, shafts, rail infrastructure including track laying, electrical infrastructure, marine works and pipelines, as well as pipeline rehabilitation. Abergeldie is an award-winning team of over 500.

Mr Crockford said that as governments helped kick-start the COVID-19 economic recovery fast-tracking more infrastructure projects to market, it was essential that Australian owned businesses were given a fair go to participate in head contract positions.

"Australia's once proud history of homegrown, nurtured and owned top tier construction firms is no more," he said.

“We need action to encourage more work and less barriers for our Mid-Tier contractors on major projects if we are to have any hope of growing domestic skills and allowing these Australian-owned businesses to grow and evolve into our new leading Tier One players.”

Australian Owned Contractors is made up of 14 local Mid-Tier construction companies across Australia:



Members of Australian Owned Contractors are:

- Majority Australian owned and controlled – at least 51% owned by Australian shareholders
- Have revenue in excess of \$250 million
- Companies that have participated in Federal and State Government funded infrastructure

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