

CCF WA 2022/23

ACTIVITY REPORT



**CIVIL CONTRACTORS
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Representing, informing and **connecting** the
Western Australian civil construction industry.



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President's Foreword

Dear Members,

Reading through this 2022/23 Activity Report, it was very satisfying to be reminded of the depth and breadth of CCF WA's advocacy and representation over the past year. We should all be proud of what the CCF does for our industry. Late last year, our national office worked hard to ensure the amendment of critical legislation, resulting in an exemption from multi-employer bargaining for the civil construction industry. We were effectively a lone voice in Canberra defending the interests of our sector – once again demonstrating CCF's key role as the independent, nationally federated voice of civil construction.

Here in Western Australia, our strong and diverse membership allows CCF WA to be the true representative voice on what is needed to promote, protect and advance the civil construction industry, and to ensure industry sustainability. We have seen clear evidence of this in CCF WA's leadership in the creation of the Industry Sustainability Strategic Approach (ISSA).

Often our sector's interests are closely aligned with the broader construction sector. On other occasions, we may have unique issues that demand an independent perspective. It is vital that civil contractors and suppliers are represented by a strong and independent voice, advocating on their behalf.

Some of the key themes of our advocacy and representation include:

- Increasing opportunities by promoting the benefits of infrastructure investment.
- Promoting sustainable procurement policies that provide a diverse mix of contract opportunities.
- Promoting civil construction career pathways and ensuring Government training policy responds to our needs and interests.
- Promoting a diverse and inclusive industry with an engaging and welcoming culture.
- Reducing red tape in all its forms, including onerous and duplicative procurement processes.
- Ensuring equity and accountability in procurement through open and transparent processes.
- Promoting the benefits of fair contracts and terms that share construction risk equitably.
- Ensuring, as the Fair Work Registered Organisation representing the civil construction sector, that Federal workplace relations policy responds to our sector's concerns and interests.

This Activity Report summarises key outcomes in 2022/23 as we have worked to achieve those aims.

Informing and connecting Members is also an important part of what we do too, and 2022/23 has been a banner year for our events. Our industry breakfasts attracted record attendances, including 300-plus for the recent Women in Civil Breakfast – where we celebrated the success of our second Women in Civil Mentoring Program, another important CCF WA initiative. The Western Australian Civil Construction Industry & Training Awards smashed all records with an amazing 133 nominations and our first ever 500-plus attendance for a gala dinner.

We are always mindful that none of this is possible without our Members' support. I sincerely thank you for supporting your industry group, CCF WA.

Leon Fogliani

CCF WA President



Representing

CCF WA is the voice of the Western Australian civil construction industry, ensuring our industry's views are represented to all levels of Government, key private sector stakeholders, and the community.



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- > CCF WA has achieved important concessions from the State Government regarding new Work Health and Safety regulations, which originally required all operators of excavators lifting swinging loads to immediately possess a crane licence. The original regulations have been revised to include a grace period (to March 31, 2024) and a rated lifting capacity lower limit (3 tonnes), significantly reducing the scope of the regulations and the compliance burden on the industry. CCF WA continues to engage with the regulator, Worksafe, and other stakeholders, as we remain committed to the principle that no excavator operator be required to undertake unsuitable training.
- > **CCF responded strongly to amendments to the Federal Government's 'Secure Jobs, Better Pay' Bill that would expose the civil construction sector to union-friendly multi-employer bargaining (MEB). The proposed amendments generally exempted the building sector from MEB except for "work in the industry of civil construction". The Government claimed MEB would have a negligible effect in civil as enterprise agreements (EAs) were used extensively. CCF countered that while many civil contractors around Australia do have EAs, many others do not; furthermore, companies with EAs may be vulnerable to MEB when their agreements expired. CCF focused our lobbying on Independent Senator David Pocock, whose vote was crucial. In a huge win for our sector, Senator Pocock agreed to support the Bill only on the condition that civil construction be included in the MEB exemption.**
- > CCF responded to the next wave of union-backed Federal IR reform, including 'same job, same pay' and 'employee-like' reforms that could unfairly impinge on employers' abilities to manage their workforces. The Federal Government's radical reform agenda will continue to keep our National office busy.
- > Following the upgrade of the Certificate III civil construction traineeships to apprenticeships in 2021/22 (in response to CCF WA advocacy), the number of workers commencing a trade-level career in civil construction has continued to grow. WA's first-ever civil construction apprentices graduated in September 2022. CCF WA represents the industry on the Civil Construction Pilot Program Steering Group, which is monitoring the success of the four-year trial. In the years ahead, the civil construction apprenticeship will help broaden the appeal of trade-level careers in our industry.
- > CCF WA continues to support the State Government's Infrastructure Ready Program, which provides entry-level employment opportunities in civil construction, connecting contractors with people seeking careers in civil. The Government designed the program in close collaboration with CCF WA.
- > CCF WA's advocacy secured extended availability of lower course fees for existing workers in the Certificate IV in Civil Construction Supervision until December 31, 2023. CCF WA's advocacy on behalf of our industry is saving employers thousands of dollars per trainee.
- > CCF WA continues to advocate for measures to mitigate the effects of unprecedented cost escalation on construction contracts. Contractors have unfairly borne the brunt of massive cost increases and supply chain disruptions. In response to CCF WA advocacy, Main Roads extended its Rise and Fall clause to all AS2124 contracts. We defended our sector's interests when the State Government implemented a \$30 million relief scheme targeting building contractors and effectively excluding civil contractors.



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Representing

(Continued)

- As the industry body representing the civil construction sector, CCF WA representatives actively contributed to numerous standing committees in Government including:
 - Urban Development Advisory Committee (UDAC) and the UDAC Technical Subcommittee (Water Corp).
 - Western Australian Road and Rail Construction and Maintenance Industry Advisory Group (Main Roads).
 - Water Corporation Contracting Industry Advisory Group
 - Utilities Providers Services Committee (various utilities)
 - Waste Reform Advisory Group (Dept of Water & Environment Regulation)
 - Traffic Management for Works on Roads Advisory Group (Main Roads)
 - Construction Industry Strategic Group (Construction Training Fund)
 - Civil Construction Pilot Program (Dept of Training & Workforce Development)
 - South West Basic Raw Materials Working Group (Dept of Water & Environment Regulation)
- A key issue being discussed at the UDAC Technical Subcommittee is a new pipe disinfection process. Our representatives are focused on achieving a cost-effective and simple process for dosing, testing, and flushing that will maintain productivity while meeting the Water Corporation's requirements.
- CCF WA contributed to improving gender diversity in the civil construction industry through the 2022 CCF WA Women in Civil Mentoring Program. The 2022 program was partly funded by the State Government Department of Transport.
- **CCF continues to lobby the Federal Government to recognise trade-level civil occupations (e.g. plant operators) as 'skilled' and allow civil construction apprentices and employers access to generous subsidies. Our sector's access to skilled migration is also constrained, as trade-level civil construction roles do not receive due recognition. CCF WA highlighted these issues to Premier Mark McGowan and Training Minister Sue Ellery ahead of the Australian Jobs and Skills Summit in September 2022.**
- CCF WA facilitated regular meetings of the Civil Construction Industry Training Committee, which brings training professionals from industry together with key stakeholders in government to continually improve training and workforce development outcomes in our industry.
- CCF WA represented the civil construction industry at a series of forums hosted



Training Minister Sue Ellery MLC presented one of the first civil apprentices, Sam Pfeffer from RJV, with his trade certificate alongside David Cunningham (CTF), Tim Ryan ((RJV) and Andy Graham (CCF WA).

Representing

(Continued)



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by Infrastructure WA intended to identify reforms required to address construction market capacity challenges. CCF WA continued to promote a cautious approach to the 'Project 13' model of very large, long-term program alliances, advocating more flexible, competitive frameworks that can achieve the benefits of early contractor involvement and innovation within a model more reflective of local industry capacity and capability.

- **CCF WA released a landmark report investigating the highly variable standards of transparency in local government procurement and proposing important reforms. The report found that the commercial-in-confidence provision in WA's legislation, s. 5.23(2)(c), allows councils to be considerably less transparent than other states, and recommended a modernised provision more in line with community expectations and the practice in other jurisdictions. The report was well received by the State Government, which we understand has accepted the need for reform.**
- CCF WA commissioned a report proposing a new approach to ensuring a diverse and sustainable road and rail construction sector in WA. In response, the Director-General of Transport initiated the Industry Sustainability Strategic Approach (ISSA). CCF WA representatives are actively engaged in ISSA and we look forward to collaborating with Government on important reforms.
- CCF WA collaborated with the Office of Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery, the Department of Training and Workforce Development, and the Construction Training Fund to host a series of Civil Construction Industry Employment Sustainability Forums. The forums bring training professionals together to share information and ideas on ensuring a sustainable, diverse and well-trained workforce.
- **CCF WA welcomed the State Government's \$80 million Infrastructure Development Fund, launched to unlock land for housing by subsidising the cost of enabling civil works.**
- In response to concerns from industry that claims and variations were not being fairly assessed, CCF WA provided a confidential report to Government with evidence of a perceived entrenched, inflexible approach to contract management and superintendence. We are advised the report's findings have been a catalyst for change.
- CCF WA advocated for more visibility of the forward pipeline of Government works, encouraging a more open approach from agencies that currently provide little or no detail prior to advertising of tenders. We collated all available information into a database (see more under 'informing' below).
- CCF WA consulted with the Government on the design and implementation of the WA Buy Local Policy 2022, which is intended to provide regional businesses with better access to government works opportunities. We continued to work closely with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's Local Content Adviser network, in support of regional members.
- CCF WA advocated for lower bid costs in Government tenders by reducing the number of detailed management plans required to be submitted by tenderers.
- CCF WA advocated to Government for the removal of some 'nominated supplier' panels that restricted the choice available to contractors for no appreciable benefit.



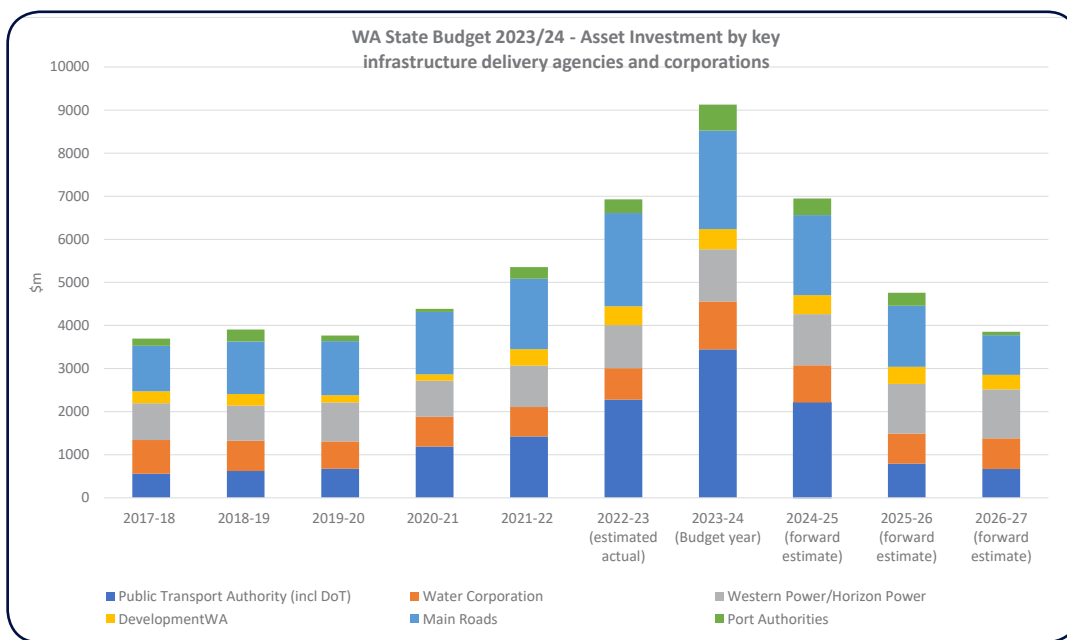


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Representing

(Continued)

- CCF WA's analysis of the 2023/24 State Budget (May 2023) showed record capital works investment over the next two years, to be followed by an abrupt decline (see chart below). We continued to highlight the importance of consistent growth in Government infrastructure investment to provide contractors and suppliers the confidence to invest in their businesses and their people. We also advocated for a diverse mix of contract opportunities, including disaggregation of major projects into multiple contracts where appropriate.



Our detailed analysis of the 2023/24 State Budget revealed concerns with peaks and troughs in infrastructure investment.

- CCF WA provided detailed submissions to Main Roads on proposed revisions to Specification 202 - Traffic Management, and on a review of its Scope of Works and Technical Criteria (SWTC).
- CCF WA welcomed the intent of the new *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* (ACH Act) while noting the challenge for industry of a large amount of complex guidance material being released close to the implementation date. CCF WA continues to engage with Government to clarify contractors' legislative responsibilities.



CCF National CEO Chris Melham and National and WA Board Member Mick Unger at a Jobs and Skills Summit Industry Roundtable in Canberra.

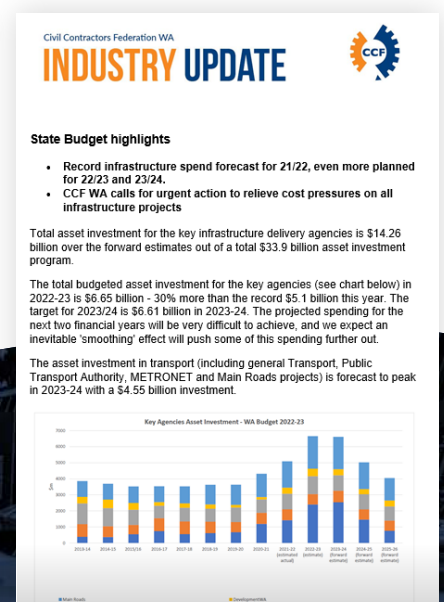
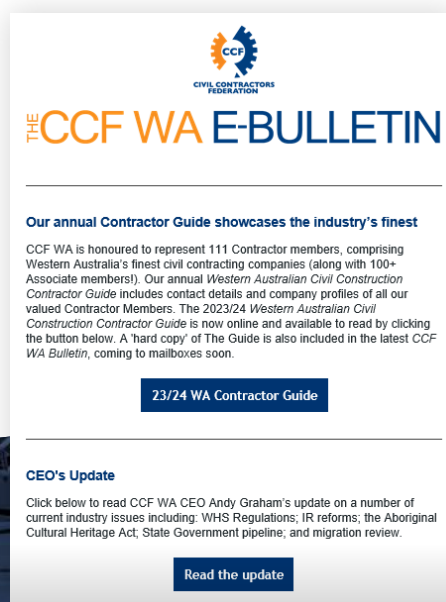
Informing

CCF WA provided a wide range of essential information to Members, aimed at helping them operate safe, profitable and sustainable businesses.



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- The quarterly *CCF WA Bulletin* magazine was mailed to more than 1200 decision makers including key decision-makers in State Government and the private sector; local government CEOs and works managers; and state Members of Parliament.
- Two annual publications, the *Western Australian Civil Construction Industry Contractor Guide* and the *Western Australian Civil Construction Industry Supplier Guide*, provided an opportunity for our Contractor Members and Associate Members respectively to showcase their companies' capabilities and expertise.
- CCF WA's fortnightly e-newsletter, *The CCF WA E-Bulletin*, provided up-to-date and relevant information to Members on a wide range of industry-specific subject matter, opportunities and policy and legislation changes.
- Members received regular targeted email updates with timely and reliable information in areas such as workplace relations, training, HSEQ, and environmental regulation. Regular sector-specific updates were sent to Members interested in information on opportunities in roads, water, power, local government, and more.
- CCF WA CEO Andy Graham's *CEO Updates* provided Members with timely summaries of our advocacy efforts on important issues.
- CCF National CEO Chris Melham's monthly *National Dispatch* summarised our National office's important advocacy to the Federal Government on a wide range of issues.
- CCF WA provided comprehensive information and support to Members on the new *Building and Construction Industry (Security of Payment) Act 2021*, which took effect from August 1, 2022.



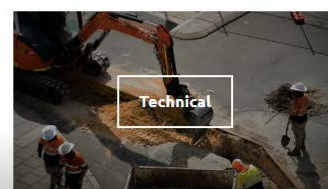
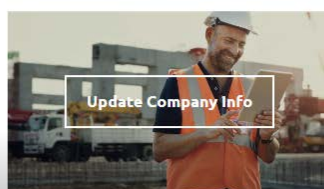
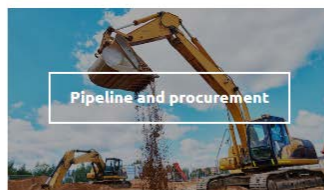


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Informing

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- **Supporting our ongoing advocacy for better information on upcoming contracting, subcontracting and supply opportunities on State Government projects, CCF WA launched our own Government civil works project pipeline database as a 'value-add' for our Members. This regularly-updated database currently lists more than 100 upcoming civil work and maintenance contracts worth more than \$5 million. It also lists details (where available) of all \$5M+ civil contracts awarded by Government since July 1, 2022.**
- We provide free access for CCF WA Contractor Members to the CCF Code and Management System Reference Documents – an invaluable resource of more than 50 policies, plans, registers and forms, all specifically designed for civil construction operations to assist companies to implement an integrated management system accredited to the CCF Code.
- CCF WA presented workshops and seminars for Members with expert presenters providing free advice on subjects such as taxation, environmental policy, codes of practice, fair work laws, workers' compensation, and trainee and apprenticeship funding.
- We provided direct advice in response to Members' enquiries on a wide range of issues including workplace relations, prequalification, contracts, and payments.
- We reviewed, analysed and communicated industry-specific findings to Members on relevant outcomes from State Government and Federal Government Budgets.
- CCF WA Members attended regular policy-focused meetings to contribute important feedback to our representatives on standing committees.
- **CCF WA's new Member Portal, on the ccfwa.com.au website, continues to expand as a reliable and exclusive source of information and guidance for our valued Members.**



Connecting

In 2022/23, CCF WA's events brought the industry together to celebrate our achievements, learn from each other, network and make new connections, and of course relax and have fun.



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- > The 2022 CCF WA Earth Awards Gala Dinner was a night of celebration, with 370 guests at Crown Perth. The CCF WA Earth Awards featured 13 outstanding infrastructure projects as finalists, with entries in all seven categories ranging from <\$2 million to >\$150 million. The judges said the calibre of entrants in all categories was outstanding, and considered that 2022 presented a significant milestone in civil construction excellence.
- > The seven WA category winners progressed to the CCF National Earth Awards in Canberra, where two WA projects, from CCF WA Members Downer (now DT Infrastructure) and Rob Carr, defeated top projects from around Australia to win National Earth Awards in their respective categories.
- > The CCF WA Industry & Training Awards highlighted exceptional talent in the civil construction industry, with an unprecedented 133 nominations across 21 awards categories. This event was attended by more than 500 industry guests from 67 companies with Hon. Pierre Yang MLC, parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Training; Water and Youth presenting awards on the Minister's behalf.
- > The annual Women in Civil Breakfast attracted a record 300-plus attendees to hear from speakers Belinda Stopic (Main Roads) and Rebecca Reeves (Holcim). Two Women in Civil Sundowner events were also well supported.
- > Our regular series of Industry Roundtables – single-table boardroom lunch events – provided Members with one-on-one access to senior decision makers in Government and the private sector.



Attendees at the 2023 Women in Civil Breakfast.



The 2022 CCF WA Earth Awards Gala Dinner.



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Connecting (Continued)

- > The annual CCF WA - Brooks Equipment Golf Day was once again sold out, with 216 golfers filling the Joondalup Resort's 27-hole-course to capacity while supporting our charity MATES in Construction WA.
- > Partnering with Main Roads WA and the Public Transport Authority, CCF WA hosted the 2022 WA Transport Works Safety Forum, bringing together infrastructure delivery, HSEQ, engineering design, traffic management and other professionals to share and learn about best practice in safely managing road and rail projects. CCF WA is currently working with Main Roads and PTA on planning the next Safety Forum in early 2024.
- > In July 2022, CCF WA hosted more than 170 guests for the 2022 President's Breakfast at The Westin Perth. Guest speaker Adrian Hart from BIS Oxford Economics travelled from Sydney to share his valuable insights on the outlook for civil construction in Western Australia and nationally.
- > CCF WA welcomed over 220 guests to the 2022 CCF WA Transport Infrastructure Breakfast in November, 2022. Our special guest speakers were Transport Minister Rita Saffioti and Michael Caltabiano, CEO at the Australian Road Research Board, who were later joined on stage by CCF WA President Leon Fogliani and CEO Andy Graham for a panel discussion.
- > In association with the Australian Flexible Pavements Association and the Traffic Management Association of Australia, CCF WA hosted a special breakfast event to mark National Road Safety Week in May, 2023. Over 150 attendees heard presentations by Road Safety Minister Paul Papalia, Director General of Transport Peter Woronzow, and National Road Safety Week founder Peter Fraser.



Players from Fulton Hogan at the 2022 CCF WA - Brooks Equipment Golf Day.



CCF WA CEO Andy Graham (left) and President Leon Fogliani (right) with Minister Rita Saffioti (centre) and Michael Caltabiano (out of view) at the 2022 Transport Infrastructure Breakfast.




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The backing of our 112 Contractor Members – ranging from national Tier 1s to regional SMEs – gives CCF WA the authority and credibility to speak as the representative voice of the Western Australian civil construction industry. CCF WA gratefully acknowledges the essential support of all our 200+ Contractor and Associate Members.

Thank you for supporting CCF WA – the voice of civil construction.

REPRESENTING INFORMING CONNECTING



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