

10 May 2010

## New contractor system for Council

Shoalhaven City Council will require all contractors involved with Council to register with a national company, BNG Consulting, to ensure that all parties are registered for occupational health and safety requirements.

Previously Council relied on its management team to ensure that contractors and contractors involved in Council's works complied with legislation and licensing.

General Manager Russ Pigg said that this was an onerous and time consuming task for the managers in Council.

"We are introducing a system so that all contractors will be treated equally and once they are registered with the external agency they will be able to apply for contractor work with Council," Mr Pigg said.

"Council's Occupational Health and Safety System is both a critical legislative obligation and a fundamental platform for our self-insurer status within the WorkCover system. The work undertaken by contractors for Council is also captured by the OHS legislation, and will be part of a WorkCover audit of Council's systems and practices."

To assist contractors Council will conduct a seminar with BNG Consulting on 7 June at Council's Administration Centre in Nowra. Council officers and BNG Consulting staff will be available to help contractors who need assistance to register with the national company.

The new system will come into place from 1 July. Council has begun communication with more than 1,500 contractors it uses. Registration with the external company will cost each contractor \$95.

BNG Consulting – offering services in Health, Safety, Environment and Quality (HSEQ) Management Systems, Strategic Planning, Risk Management, Incident Investigation, Self Insurance to State Workers Compensation Schemes, and Management Systems Auditing – will be available to assist contractors with registration. When a contractor registers their company with Conserve the contractor will:

- become a Pre-Accredited Council contractor for OHS purposes;
- have a streamlined validation process for OHS Systems when carrying out projects/works/services with Council;
- be visible to other clients – including neighbouring Councils such as Kiama, and Wollongong – that are using Conserve including private sector organisations, giving the contractor exposure to multiple potential clients;
- be able to manage their OHS in line with legislative requirements by giving them the ability to:
  - undertake OHS self audits using Conserve tools and timeframes, and maintain records of their continuous improvement process;
  - manage their employees' and sub-contractors' insurances, licenses and qualification requirements and be notified in advance of impending expiry dates;

- maintain their OHS information, so when the contractor submits tenders/quotes to other companies the contractor's information is readily available.

A number of councils including Wollondilly, Kiama, Wollongong and Fairfield are using this system and are satisfied with its capabilities.

For further information on the registration, you can contact Stephen Crerar, Human Resources Manager, on (02) 4429 3560.

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