

Research Project One (RP1)

The Current State of Collaborative Working as a Business Discipline in Australia

9 Key Themes

emerged in the early stage of research:

Catalyst	Understanding	Evidence
Framework	Trust	Competence
Leadership	Supply Chains	Opportunities

Roundtables

Community of Practice input is being sought through a series of Roundtables, providing opportunities for participants to shape the development and understanding of Collaborative Working in Australia.

A **CATALYST** is needed to overcome the inertia to change – businesses and governments need to drive the way, drawing on evidence of value creation – there are distinct roles for change enablers and change delegators (those responsible for implementation)

We need common **UNDERSTANDING** of what collaboration or Collaborative Working is, and how it works – learning and education is essential for both SMEs and large contractors – we need greater understanding of efficiency gains, benefits and value creation possibilities

To drive adoption of a different paradigm, industry needs **EVIDENCE** of benefit – we need case studies to demonstrate value and make it clear how Collaborative Working has really made a difference to success – collaboration must be tied to objectives and business needs

A common **FRAMEWORK** is needed across parties such as SMEs, governments, and prime contractors – collaborative culture needs to be built based on frameworks and behaviours – we need to reduce initial overhead from changing paradigms and reduce risks of change

There is a need for genuine **TRUST** between parties – trust develops through engagement and working together and needs to be actively fostered – lack of trust is a stumbling block

Collaborative **COMPETENCE** is important and its meaning needs to be clear – across the entire value chain, there is a need for better guidance and communication about Collaborative Working and the competencies needed to effectively adopt it

In the competitive environment that most businesses are well-experienced in, **LEADERSHIP** is needed that is adaptive at the highest level – aspects of working collaboratively require a different mindset to that behind traditional contracts – businesses need to continually adapt

Collaboration can provide for better mitigation and reduction of risk through **SUPPLY CHAINS** through understanding common risks and how risks can be best managed from an entire supply chain point of view – identifying both common and unique risks will improve agility

There are **OPPORTUNITIES** for joint efforts to develop Collaborative Working practice that would improve SMEs' ability to thrive in the marketplaces they face – these include linking businesses with complementary capabilities, capability development through sharing, and increasing overall capacity through efficiencies in common functions