

## **Adelaide expert to challenge role of steering committees at international congress**

**Adelaide project management specialist Lisa Twyford has been selected to present not once but three times at the upcoming International Project Management Association's (IPMA) World Congress in Brisbane next month. Her audience will include up to 2000 of the world's best project management practitioners from over 50 countries.**

Ms Twyford will be challenging the current role of steering committees in her main paper and will also present two poster sessions, one designed to remind project managers that stakeholders are people too, and another highlighting critical people skills to keep a project team on track and motivated.

"Steering committees are proliferating in many forms," Ms Twyford said.

"Frankly, some steering committees just don't help a project; they just become an encumbrance to getting the job done. I think we need to be asking ourselves whether it's a case for evolution or revolution for the steering committee concept," she said.

Ms Twyford is Managing Director of Clear Decisions, a business providing project management and business improvement services, with a focus on SMEs and clients including SA Water, National Wireless and Transponder Technologies.

The usefulness – or not – of steering committees was a natural lead-in to Ms Twyford's presentations on stakeholders and people skills.

"I see these so-called 'soft' communication skills as an essential component to an effective project management strategy," she said.

"It doesn't matter if your business is a small one and all you are doing is introducing your staff to new procedures or building a billion-dollar project; you have to get the people equation right to make the project really successful.

"We all know we react better, give more and feel more connected to projects when we are treated well and considered as integral to the project but project management strategies rarely include this in their formal plans.

"When we do, everyone involved from stakeholders to the staff team benefits and so does the project itself. It can make the difference between coming in on budget and on time and having a costly disaster on your hands."

The IPMA World Congress will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from October 9-12, 2011. The Congress theme 'Delivering the Promise' will focus on the challenge of delivering specific outcomes.