



VISIONARIES

FROM QUANTITY SURVEYOR TO DECISION INTELLIGENCE



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For most of its history, quantity surveying has looked backwards. We measure what has been designed, tender what has been documented, and report on what has already happened. That skillset built the profession - but it is no longer what clients are actually asking for.

AI is now moving fast into professional workflows, and it will change what a QS is expected to deliver. It won't replace quantity surveyors. But it will make yesterday's service - a static cost plan, a monthly report already weeks out of date - look increasingly thin. Australia's construction productivity problem hasn't been solved by more technology; it will be solved by better decisions, made earlier, with better information behind them.

That's the opportunity in front of us. AI changes the economics of information - interrogating contracts, programmes, variations and historical data far faster than any team could manually. But judgement doesn't become less valuable; it becomes the differentiator. AI can surface a pattern. It cannot own the professional accountability of a recommendation or tell a client an assumption is unrealistic before it becomes an expensive mistake.

This shift is already reshaping the role of the quantity surveyor. The discipline of core QS services remains essential, but increasingly, clients are looking for insights that go beyond reporting what has already happened. The opportunity is to use project data to anticipate what comes next, identify emerging risks and support better-informed decisions. The real differentiator will not be who can produce a cost plan fastest, but who can turn complex information into clear, defensible advice before critical decisions are made.

The QS of the future isn't measuring less. They're mattering more.