## **Action/Priority Matrix Tool**



**BACKGROUND:** Would you like to be more productive with the time you have? Achieve more with less effort? Delegate time-consuming tasks? Well, you can! Achieve more by identifying **QUICK Win Tasks** that are LOW Effort yet HIGH Impact (the shaded quadrant), and letting go of **Hard SLOGS**: HIGH Effort, LOW Impact tasks.

But first you must identify them. Review the quadrants below and then use the empty template on page 2 to assess your task-list, boost productivity and get results!

## LOW Effort (Easy) **HIGH Effort (Hard) QUICK Wins! Big PROJECTS** Spend 5 mins brainstorming This is often the bulk of our work, so these every week. Then: make sure you: Block out time to do the work. Do as many as you can **HIGH Impact** (without compromising the Plan and clarify required outputs. bigger picture). Agree goals, dates & break down big If you can, identify one of tasks into smaller chunks—creating smaller, lower effort sub-tasks. these to complete daily! Identify tasks on your list that are What tasks feel or seem HIGH interdependent ie. must get finished effort, but can actually be before you start the next one. Mark completed quickly? (eg. a task these as a priority. you've been avoiding). HIGH Impact, LOW Effort HIGH Impact, HIGH Effort LOW Impact, LOW Effort LOW Impact, HIGH Effort **Hard SLOGS!** FILLER Tasks First ask: Is this low impact Phew! Is this task really necessary? task really necessary? Who else might enjoy this task or do it faster? Who could you delegate to If yes, use these tasks to: who'd benefit from the experience? Make use of 15-30min gaps in What other ways are there to your day/between meetings. approach this task? Get creative! Take a break from bigger, If you HAVE to do it, find a way to: more intense tasks. Break it up into smaller, manageable Give yourself a boost by tasks & take regular short breaks. completing something! Bring some fun to it (eg. add music) Stay productive when you're Get super-focused. feeling tired or low in energy... Really reward yourself when it's done. **EFFORT** High Low What have you learned so far, that you'd like to make a note of?

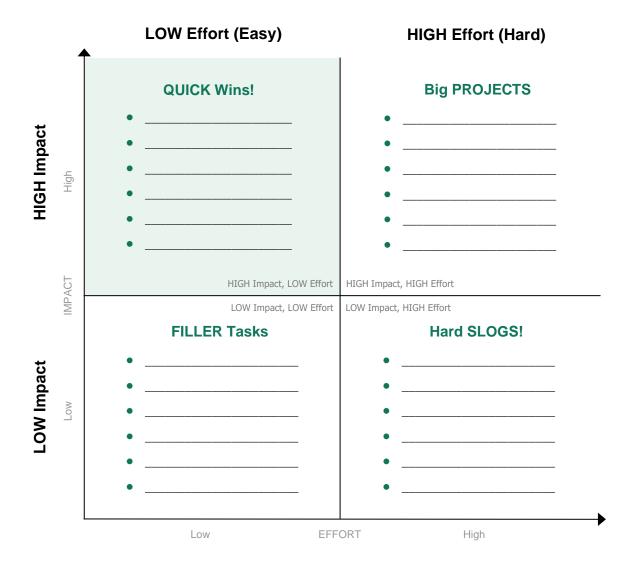
Now it's time to put YOUR tasks into the relevant categories on the chart overleaf, so you can make use of this productivity technique.

## bentley CONSULTING GROUP

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**INSTRUCTIONS:** Many of us spend most of our time on big project tasks. But what quick wins could you focus on or let go of that would maximize your productivity? Use the empty template below to review your task-list and see what you learn.

- 1. Write down what % of time you currently spend in each quadrant: Where do you spend most of your time?
- 2. Review your tasks for the week and then assign them to the quadrants below.
- 3. Highlight any deadlines you absolutely MUST get done this week. Which quadrant they are in?



**BE MORE PRODUCTIVE**: So how would you like to spend your time differently? Consider what actions you could take in the next week to improve your productivity? How can you maximise your *Quick Wins* while also completing your *Big Projects*? What gaps do you have where you could complete necessary *Filler Tasks*? What *Hard Slogs* could you delegate or drop altogether?

The Quick Wins I will focus on are
The Hard Slogs I will delegate or drop are
Other Action/s I will take are

Why not put your completed chart somewhere obvious—so you can refer to it as the week progresses?