

## THE JOURNEY MUST BEGIN ON THE ROAD TO REFORM Built Environment Body Welcomes Infrastructure Australia Report

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The industry association for consulting firms in the built environment has welcomed the 'Making Reform Happen' report published today [04/06/18] by Infrastructure Australia.

Megan Motto, Chief Executive of Consult Australia, who represent an industry comprising some 48, 900 firms across Australia, said: "This report shifts the infrastructure narrative from projects we can or cannot afford, to reform we simply cannot afford to ignore.

"There is no doubt that infrastructure reform is the key to Australia's lagging productivity. Reform in this area gives us a double whammy - not only does efficient infrastructure deliver long-term productivity dividends, it also boosts real jobs in the short and medium term."

"But the Commonwealth needs to be a more active participant to drive the changes we need as a nation. The Prime Minister has espoused that the government should be more than an ATM on projects, but similarly it needs to use its financial levers to drive system and program reform as well as projects."

Road user charging is one such example. For too long this has been placed in the 'too hard' basket, whilst commuters suffer the consequences in rush-hour traffic. If the reform in this report was implemented, it could see travel times cut on congested roads at peak hour by up to a third. The pay-off here can't be ignored at an estimated \$66 billion increase in GDP."

Infrastructure Australia has provided a useful framework for considering how the Commonwealth can leverage financial incentives to drive better policy, as well as potentially more consistency and collaboration between jurisdictions.

The report identifies ways to make reform happen including exempting reforms from GST calculations and leveraging Government's spending power with state and territories. Alongside road-user charging, further reforms include the urban water sector, electricity market, land tax and franchising public transport services.

Motto added: "As a nation Australia has to decide what kind of economy it wants. One of high productivity that efficiently connects people to places and products to markets, or one that remains stuck in the past whilst people remain stuck in traffic.

Consult Australia welcomes this report and urges the Government to consider and act upon its recommendations."

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## NOTES TO EDITOR

### 1. About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the industry association representing consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment sectors. These services include design, engineering, architecture, technology, survey, legal and management solutions for individual consumers through to major companies in the private and public sector including local, state and federal governments. We represent an industry comprising some 48, 900 firms across Australia, ranging from sole practitioners through to some of Australia's top 500 firms with combined revenue exceeding \$40 billion a year.

### 2. About Megan Motto

Megan Motto is the Chief Executive Officer of Consult Australia; Member of the Government's new Cities Reference Group; a Director of Standards Australia; Councillor of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI); Treasurer of the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) and sits on the NSW State Advisory Council for the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA).

**3. For more information and to arrange an interview** Contact Kevin Keith on +61 420 90 12 76 or email [kevin@consultaaustralia.com.au](mailto:kevin@consultaaustralia.com.au)