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15 year plan a blueprint for reform

The national infrastructure plan and associated infrastructure priority list are documents which practice what they preach. The key message of getting back to long term planning based on rigorous analysis is supported through the production of documents which promote significant reform across a range of areas with a clear focus on user experience.

The infrastructure priority list is in itself a novel way to look at Australia's infrastructure deficit in that it addresses both ready to go projects as well as proposals that are in the early stages of thinking. This is a sophisticated and phased approach which differs from our historical race for solutions searching for problems.

Consult Australia is pleased to see many of our issues and recommendations addressed in the plans 78 recommendations. We are particularly pleased that the report does not shy away from the tough issues such as road user charging and asset privatisation.

Industry association Consult Australia, Chief Executive Megan Motto said

"Infrastructure Australia has done an excellent job of pulling together a document which explores a broad range of issues and challenges facing the infrastructure sector in a comprehensible yet easily digestible document.

"In particular they have shown cognisance in areas where political sensitivity calls for a nuanced and pragmatic approach.

"For example the suggestion of a Public Inquiry into road user charging is a sensible way of addressing both the lack of robust information regarding the current pricing system and the emotionally charged nature of this highly political issue.

"The report presents an opportunity for governments to look at major reform to address Australia's growing population and urbanisation challenges, in a way that supports economic growth, sustainability and liveability.

"Most importantly it suggests a sensible roadmap for implementation, recognising the inequity in funding and delivery responsibilities between Federal and State Governments."

Consult Australia urges the government to carefully consider the recommendations contained in the report and make a timely response whilst engaging with its industry partners.

Megan also commented

"Like any infrastructure asset, the success of the plan will only be demonstrated through implementation and improvement.

"Government must realise that in order for this to happen there must be a compact between tiers of government and industry players to accept the need for significant change and work collaboratively to institute lasting reform."

Ends

MEDIA RELEASE



Driving Business Success for Consulting Firms in the Built and Natural Environment

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Consult Australia's CEO, Megan Motto on 0411 104 458 or via email at megan@consultaaustralia.com.au.

About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the industry association that represents the business interests of consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment.

Our member firms include: AECOM, Beca, SMEC, GHD, Jacobs, Calibre Consulting, Golder Associates, Kellogg Brown & Root, Opus International Consultants, Aurecon, Arcadis, Rider Levett Bucknall, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff and WorleyParsons.

We represent an industry comprising some 48,000 firms across Australia, ranging from sole practitioners through to some of Australia's top 500 firms. Collectively, our industry is estimated to employ over 240,000 people, and generate combined revenue exceeding \$40 billion a year.