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A big step for cities, now comes the journey

Industry Association Consult Australia welcomes the Australian Government taking the first steps towards a much needed new approach that practically responds to the range of opportunities and challenges that face our cities across Australia.

“The Government’s Smart Cities Plan encapsulates many of the things that we have spent more than a decade advocating for that are in the interest of the Australian people, our economy and our member firms.” said Consult Australia Chief Executive, Megan Motto.

“We are on this journey together, and now we must come together to transform how we deliver infrastructure for more productive, sustainable and liveable cities. Delivering broader business case development, new models for financing and funding infrastructure, the collection and use of data, and better decision making will give Australians the cities of tomorrow.”

“It’s terrific to see the Government consider alternative infrastructure funding, such as value capture, as a way of helping to finance and help fill the infrastructure gap in Australia cities”.

“Consult Australia has long advocated for this type of reform.”

In 2010 Consult Australia through the report *Transporting Australia’s Future* detailed the new methods Government could consider when funding infrastructure, and again in 2011, *Tomorrow’s Cities Today* highlighted the role infrastructure can play in boosting productivity.

“We argued as early as 2011 that the Federal Government should establish a Public Infrastructure Investment Strategy including leveraging debt and using initiatives like value capture.”

“This announcement today is a smart decision by the Turnbull Government and should be commended. The challenge will be ensuring that the Federal Government can work effectively with the states, local government and industry to embrace this new model of planning and infrastructure delivery.”

“Working collaboratively with industry, and investing in business case development to support an investment ready project pipeline will help us deliver better outcomes, and can bring forward projects that would otherwise have to wait years or even decades if they were to rely only status quo funding that may never materialise.”

“The Smart Cities Plan recognises the vital role of infrastructure investment in boosting productivity. In the face of increasing global instability alternative methods of financing, governance and planning must continue to be explored if Australia wants to maintain its competitive edge” Ms Motto said.

End

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.