

Thursday 24 November 2016

## A focus on the future is welcome

Consult Australia congratulates the Federal Government on the response to Infrastructure Australia's *Australian Infrastructure Plan*. A focus on progressing infrastructure investment and a greater focus on the planning of infrastructure projects should be applauded.

Chief Executive, Megan Motto, applauded the Federal Government for committing to supporting 69 of the 78 recommendations made by Infrastructure Australia coupled with committing funds towards 14 of the 15 projects on Infrastructure Australia's *Infrastructure Priority List*.

"It has become increasingly clear that better planning is needed to ensure that infrastructure projects are delivered on time and on budget to benefit all Australian's"

Consult Australia is pleased to see many of our issues and recommendations addressed in the response and we are particularly pleased that the Government does not shy away from the tough issues such as road user charging.

"For example establishing a study into the potential benefits and impacts of road user charging for light vehicles 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".

Additionally, Consult Australia has long argued for a national freight and supply chain strategy and welcomes the commitment from the Federal Government to an inquiry that could help remove significant pressures on the maintenance budget for our roads and free up funds to develop more passenger transport infrastructure"

"With rapid changes in technology it is critical that Government plan early to maximise the benefits brought by the inevitable changes and ensure that the infrastructure we are planning today is positioned to accommodate new models for passenger and freight movement, changes in consumer behaviour and new markets for services that have not existed previously".

"Australia is home to some of the brightest and best engineers and designers in the world. We have the capacity to utilise the great minds and build the infrastructure, that isn't just world class, but has the ability to serve the population for decades to come"

"The innovations and improvements that we can make to our own cities will not only improve the health and wealth of the vast majority of Australians, but will also be key intellectual exports that help shape the nature of urban life in our region".

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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Consult Australia's Chief Executive Officer, Megan Motto on 02 8252 6705 or [megan@consultaustalia.com.au](mailto:megan@consultaustalia.com.au)

### About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the association that represents the business interests of consulting firms that design, engineer, assess and plan our built and natural environments.

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.