Wednesday 25 November 2015

A Second Harbour Bridge or Opera House?
WHAT'S THE NEXT BIG IDEA FOR SYDNEY?

A new international competition has been launched seeking out the next big infrastructure ideas for Australia's largest city.

The competition is being led by industry body Consult Australia in association with the Future Cities Collaborative, an initiative of the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney.

In putting out the call for submissions, Consult Australia's New South Wales State Manager Matthew Trigg says the competition is a way for individuals and teams to flex their creative muscles in the interest of creating a better city:

'This is about expanding our view of what is possible for Sydney. We hope to find fresh thinking and spark a wider conversation about how to make the most of this amazing city. Using value capture these projects will be designed without being a burden on tax payers and in time will pay for themselves.'

'Infrastructure is a broad term, so we are expecting to receive a broad range of proposals; some more realistic than others, but all will help further the discussion on what is needed in the short and long term.'

'There is a massive amount of expertise out there at all levels, but there are few opportunities for this kind of discussion and many people are itching to talk about what they think will make their city better.'

'We are not short of ideas. It's time we put them forward.'

Director of the Future Cities Collaborative, Sandy Burgoyne, says the competition is a small way to continue to inspire industry, community and government to think differently about infrastructure challenges and consider new ways of funding and financing city-shaping initiatives so that we can create thriving communities for all.

The competition is open to anyone, with submissions due by Monday 29 February 2016. Entries will be publicly exhibited and judged on originality, practicality, economic, social, environmental, and communication criteria.

More information can be found on the competition website.

Use of Value capture financing

The completion is focused on those infrastructure ideas that value capture could make possible. Value capture provides a way of funding urban renewal, infrastructure and other projects without being a burden on tax payers.

Under value capture, all kinds of infrastructure can funded based on the additional value it brings to an area over a given period. That is, enabled by government, built privately and funded through value uplift.

Recent reports on value capture from both organisations are available on the competition website.

END

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 NSW State Manager, Matthew Trigg on 02 8252 6708 or nsw@consultaustralia.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.

Consult Australia has undertakes significant work to further the discussion, including on how major works are financed and procured. For more visit http://consultaustralia.com.au/Home/Advocacy/Infrastructure

About Future Cities Collaborative

The Future Cities Collaborative is an initiative of the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney with the primary role of promoting sustainable urban development by supporting city leaders with leadership and strategic management tools; creating a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information; and developing skills and knowledge in building sustainable cities.

Visit futurecities.org.au to find out more.