

27 April 2016

Government spending is welcome, but they must consult industry

Engaging with industry will be the key to ensuring all commitments made in today's Victorian State Budget can be achieved while providing taxpayers with maximum value for money.

"The Government's willingness to address the State's infrastructure deficit and develop a long term plan is a strong statement on the importance of infrastructure in growing the Victorian economy" Industry association Consult Australia, Chief Executive Megan Motto said.

"We welcome the Government's commitment to spend on key projects across the State including road, rail and health infrastructure. It is pleasing to see essential longer-term infrastructure planning, as it will be supported by Infrastructure Victoria, as a vital ingredient in building business confidence."

"The commitment to fully fund Melbourne Metro Rail along with significant spending on regional roads, rail, health and schools is vital if Victoria wants to strengthen its competitive advantage, yet there are still significant challenges to be met"

"Consulting firms in the built environment design the solutions to many of the challenges currently facing governments in dealing with issues such as congestion and the liveability and productivity of our communities".

"Effective collaboration between government and industry will be fundamental to our success in meeting these challenges as part of the implementation of these positive budget announcements." Ms Motto said.

"It is vital that the Victorian Government engage early with industry to ensure that these projects are delivered efficiently and provide maximum value for money for the Victorian taxpayer"

A report released in February 2015, *Economic Benefits of Better Procurement Practices*, commissioned by Consult Australia and undertaken by Deloitte Access Economics, found there could be significant savings for governments just by buying smarter.

"The report has found that direct savings of around 5.4% can be achieved across governments' procurement of professional services supporting the delivery of new infrastructure," said Consult Australia Chief Executive, Megan Motto.

"These savings will only be achieved if Government engage early and collaborate with Industry to streamline and reduce costs to the Government through the procurement process"

Consult Australia is eager to work closely with the Victorian Government to ensure that the significant investments announced in today's Budget meet the needs of Victorian's for decades to come.

Ends

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@consultaustalia.com.au.

MEDIA RELEASE



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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, Arup, Golder Associates, Kellogg Brown & Root, Opus International Consultants, Aurecon, Arcadis, SLR, Rider Levett Bucknall, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff, MWH Australia, Norman Disney & Young 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.