

## INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET BUILDS THE ROAD TO GROWTH

The Infrastructure Prime Minister has delivered. The 2014-15 Budget rightly identifies infrastructure investment as a critical economic lever to build productivity, jobs and growth for years to come.

Consult Australia's Chief Executive Megan Motto states: "There will be a lot of debate about who wins a larger slice of this budget pie, but the key outcome of this budget will be to increase the size of the pie.

"In a tough market where many firms are struggling with the gap left following the investment boom in the resources sector, the additional \$11.6 billion announced through the Government's Infrastructure Growth Package is urgently needed across the states and territories.

"But this is not about the Government just doling out the cash for infrastructure projects. We are seeing the delivery of more far-sighted policy frameworks.

"The Government is putting the foundations in place to support a more sustainable funding base for a long-term infrastructure pipeline.

"The delivery of over \$5 billion for the Government's Asset Recycling Initiative, alongside the announcement of a \$2 billion concessional bridging loan for Sydney's WestConnex, demonstrate the government is serious about partnering with the states and the private sector to realise new investment on the ground.

"Quarantining funds raised through asset privatisations and fuel excise indexation for infrastructure will deliver the certainty that industry needs to both bring private sector finance to the table and deliver projects.

"This will help build public support and business confidence that the infrastructure promised in this budget will be delivered and more funding will follow.

"The real test for this Government's infrastructure legacy is going to be linking the funding promises made in this budget with improvements in planning, procurement and delivery.

"Going forward, the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Public Infrastructure must be a fundamental driver for value for money to ensure that the pain borne by taxpayers in this budget is not wasted."

### Ends

13 May 2014

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](mailto:megan@consultaustalia.com.au).

# MEDIA RELEASE



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