

BUILDING QUEENSLAND NEEDS NEW FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

New funding for Queensland infrastructure is the missing link if Building Queensland and the State Infrastructure Plan are to deliver for Queenslanders.

Welcoming the introduction of legislation to establish Building Queensland, Consult Australia State Manager, Stacey Rawlings stated: "It's terrific to see the establishment of Building Queensland in parallel with the release of the Draft State Infrastructure Plan this week."

Essential to the success of both the Infrastructure Plan and Building Queensland will be clear commitments to longer-term funding that gives businesses the confidence to invest in their workforce, knowing that the Government will deliver the projects on the ground now critical to get Queensland moving.

"If Building Queensland is to actually build Queensland, now is the time to put the dollars on the table, to get the shovels moving, and the cranes in the air.

"Both Building Queensland and the release of the Draft Infrastructure Plan represent important steps towards developing a strong infrastructure pipeline for Queensland.

"A strong pipeline is exactly what the State needs to deliver jobs, productivity and a better standard of living for all Queenslanders."

Consult Australia called for the establishment of Building Queensland as a critical mechanism to provide independent, expert and transparent advice to government on Queensland's infrastructure priorities.

Ms Rawlings remarked, "This is an important milestone, in bringing that policy idea to reality so Queensland can enjoy the benefits of better infrastructure, and business can plan for the future with greater certainty."

By establishing Building Queensland, the Government is setting the groundwork to ensure that important decisions around infrastructure are based on expert advice rather than political considerations.

"While we're never going to completely take the politics out of decision making around infrastructure project selection, we can at least increase transparency as to what the expert advice is, and hold ministers to account." Ms Rawlings said.

"Once established, Building Queensland will maximise the taxpayer's bang for their buck, and ensure that Queenslanders get to enjoy world class infrastructure for years to come."

Ends

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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Consult Australia's State Manager, Stacey Rawlings on 0404 123 896 or via email at stacey@consultaustalia.com.au.

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