

LABOR'S INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT: A PLAN FOR GROWTH

Infrastructure and design industries welcome the commitment by the Federal Opposition today to deliver new funding for Australia's infrastructure.

Industry association Consult Australia commends the vision and recognition in the announcement of the critical role of infrastructure as an economic lever to drive productivity and jobs growth.

Chief Executive Megan Motto observed; 'All too often governments at all levels live in an infrastructure utopia of planning and reports, without a clear funding strategy to drive delivery.

'Importantly, this initiative builds on the success of Infrastructure Australia and acknowledges the current once-in-a-generation opportunity to leverage relatively low interest rates, and a strong credit-rating federally, to generate new private-sector investment for major projects.

'Critical to the successful implementation of this initiative will be the ongoing independence of Infrastructure Australia and the credibility of its advice to government.

'A more commercial role for Infrastructure Australia facilitating project investment should be carefully considered alongside its critical role in providing independent, expert advice on infrastructure priorities based on a broad range of social and economic priorities.

'The barrier to private investment created through the higher risk profile of green-field infrastructure investment needs to be overcome, and we are hopeful that this type of innovative financing arrangement can manage that risk through government investment in the first stages of project delivery.

'The potential of this model has already been demonstrated through the leadership provided by the NSW Government in their asset recycling program supporting the delivery of WestConnex in Sydney.

'Major infrastructure needs to be investment-ready before it can be shovel-ready. If implemented, that this initiative would result in more projects moving further down this pipeline is a welcome development for industry who plan their business, recruitment and investment decisions on that basis.

'If Australia is to retain the skilled workers and service industries established off the back of the recent mining boom, this type of investment is needed as soon as possible.

'With a bi-partisan commitment to a stronger role for the Federal Government to invest in city-shaping infrastructure across all modes, more innovative thinking about how to fund this infrastructure is now urgently needed to deliver jobs and productivity across Australia.'

Ends

8 October 2015

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, SMEC, GHD, Jacobs, Calibre Consulting, Golder Associates, Kellogg Brown & Root, Opus International Consultants, Aurecon, Arcadis, Rider Levett Bucknall, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff 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.