

PROMISING RESPONSE TO BUDGET BY OPPOSITION

Consult Australia today welcomed the Federal Opposition's commitments to write off the HECS debts of engineering graduates and further strengthen Infrastructure Australia.

"A number of positive commitments were made in Mr Shorten's Budget Reply speech last night, that recognise the importance of good public infrastructure, and ensuring the skills are available to our industry as we play a key role in creating that infrastructure," said Megan Motto, Consult Australia's Chief Executive Officer.

The policy announcements of importance to built environment professional services firms that make up Consult Australia's membership include:

- Strengthening the role of Infrastructure Australia to reduce the impact of politics on vital funding decisions;
- Acknowledging the importance of cities policy within infrastructure policy generally;
- A commitment to work with the Government to further reduce the tax rate for small business;
- Boosting the teaching of maths and science in schools; and
- Writing off the HECS debt of 100,000 science, technology, engineering and maths graduates.

Ms Motto said, "these announcements address a range of policy issues that we have advocated for over a number of years.

"Encouraging students to study maths, science and engineering is crucial to the ongoing development of our industry and related services that will drive our national productivity in the future.

"We also believe that Infrastructure Australia is a vital part of the decision making framework around infrastructure projects, and it is critical that it is well-resourced and positioned to make a positive contribution to infrastructure decision making and the related public policy debate.

"We look forward to the Opposition substantiating the commitments made in Mr Shorten's speech by announcing sustainable funding in support of the measures, and in keeping with appropriate fiscal responsibility." she said.

Ends

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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



Driving Business Success for Consulting Firms in the Built and Natural Environment

About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the industry association that represents consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment sectors.

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.

Our member firms include: AECOM, GHD, Jacobs, Calibre Consulting, Golder Associates, Kellogg Brown & Root, Opus International Consultants, Aurecon, Rider Levett Bucknall, WSP/PB and WorleyParsons.