

BUDGET BEGS THE QUESTION: WHAT'S NEXT FOR QLD?

With no new money for major projects the Queensland State Budget highlights the urgent need for governments to identify new sources of infrastructure funding.

Industry Association Consult Australia, State Manager Stacey Rawlings stated: 'Business confidence rests on a longer-term pipeline of major infrastructure to support business planning and employment. Without that our firms and their staff will have to look elsewhere for opportunities and Queensland risks losing an industry fifteen years in the making.

'An additional \$59.4 million for planning reform is welcome, alongside confirmation of those funding commitments already made for existing major projects.

'Consult Australia welcomes this Government's focus on making better decisions about what infrastructure to build through Building Queensland, but that will be for nothing without supporting investment. Industry is hopeful that more infrastructure announcements will be made in advance of the planned release of the State Infrastructure Plan in early 2016.

'Many of our firms are currently reliant on interstate work to support their Queensland-based business, and sit at the start of the construction supply chain. If these firms leave it does not bode well for broader industry.

'The good news is that there are opportunities. Consult Australia welcomes the spirit of collaboration that has characterised the Government's first months in office, and is looking forward to working with them to deliver new opportunities for Queensland.

'All spheres of government must take seriously the urgent need for infrastructure investment as a key productivity driver. With asset sales no longer on the table for Queensland, State and Federal Governments must come together to leverage their balance sheets, encourage private sector investment and explore new opportunities to deliver the infrastructure Queensland needs to lock-in long term productivity.'

Ends

15 July 2015

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@consultaaustralia.com.au.

About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the leading not-for-profit association that represents the business interests of consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment.

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.

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.