

CONSULT AUSTRALIA QUESTIONS INFRASTRUCTURE WA INDEPENDENCE Infrastructure body must not be ‘independence-lite’ says Consult Australia

The industry association for consulting firms in the built environment, Consult Australia, has issued a response to Infrastructure WA launched by Premier Mark McGowan today [06/02/2018].

Steve Coghlan, WA State Manager for Consult Australia, said: “Consult Australia welcomes the launch of this consultation on Infrastructure WA. It’s critical that we do not just get any type of infrastructure body, but the right type of infrastructure body with genuine independence locked in by statute.”

“Infrastructure WA must not be ‘independence-lite’ reporting to the government-of-the-day as oppose to parliament. This could risk the clash of short and long-term cycles, with decades of foresight required for infrastructure potentially lost in the weeks of an election trail.”

“This is a view shared by the Western Australian Economic Regulation Authority which reported that, *“political imperatives often cause projects to be rushed through proposed planning processes, with the result that project outcomes are materially compromised.”*

“Reporting to parliament would protect infrastructure planning from chop-and-change election-based policy, strengthening the democratic process, and reducing the risk of wasting taxpayers’ money. It would ensure we can plan beyond the short term for sustainable economic growth which this state so urgently requires.”

Earlier this year Consult Australia published a report analysing all existing infrastructure bodies and recommending a set of principles to be followed in each jurisdiction.

The report ‘Infrastructure Governance in Australia’ is available at www.consultaustralia.com.au

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NOTES TO EDITOR

1. About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the industry association representing consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment sectors and a longstanding advocate of independent infrastructure bodies.

We represent an industry comprising some 48, 900 firms across Australia, ranging from sole practitioners through to some of Australia's top 500 firms with combined revenue exceeding \$40 billion a year.

Their services include design, engineering, architecture, technology, survey, legal and management solutions for individual consumers through to major companies in the private and public sector including local, state and federal governments.

2. For more information and to arrange an interview

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