

## **POLITICAL MAYHEM MEANS IT'S TIME TO GET SMARTER ABOUT INFRASTRUCTURE**

Industry association, Consult Australia has warned infrastructure funding could become a casualty of spending cuts for an incoming government if proper funding mechanisms are not established.

Consult Australia Chief Executive, Megan Motto said that the lack of a secure schedule of work has left the industry hanging on tenterhooks and that it's time to get smarter.

"We have already seen certainty in the infrastructure pipeline as a casualty of the election campaign," said Ms Motto.

"On the other side of 7 September whichever side of politics prevails will be faced with a long list of spending promises and an ever tighter budget.

"The fact is there is just not enough funding available under current Commonwealth and state government arrangements.

"To fund the full list of projects canvassed across both sides of politics, the major parties must move beyond the patchwork of grants and look at alternate policies."

Consult Australia in conjunction with member firm, Sinclair Knight Merz is today launching *Capturing Value* – a document that details the strong policy platform for value capture.

The report will be launched at this morning's Consult Australia industry workshop and luncheon with guest speaker Infrastructure Australia Chairman, Sir Rod Eddington AO.

"The return on investment from our highways, rail and urban public transport infrastructure is clear. With estimates suggesting some \$2.85 for every \$1 invested, that alone is a persuasive indicator of the potential for infrastructure to drive productivity," said Ms Motto.

"In this context, the potential for value capture mechanisms to contribute to Australia's urban renewal and public transport funding shortfall is enormous."

The publication sets out the ten success factors for value capture in Australia; establishing a new reference point for a whole of government approach that realises new funding and better value for our investments in infrastructure and urban renewal.

"Alongside calls from across industry for a National Urban Fund, providing seed finance for an infrastructure bond scheme, these types of mechanisms must be explored and adopted," said Ms Motto.

"With both sides only able to give mixed commitments to different projects, we again face a politicised list of projects, with no real innovation in funding to support it.

"The Government has always been keen to promote its record levels of infrastructure spending, and Tony Abbott wants to be known as 'the infrastructure Prime Minister'. We look forward to the next Government putting its money where their mouth is to secure stable and secure infrastructure pipelines to support our industry, Australian communities and our national economy."

**Ends**

3 September 2013

# MEDIA RELEASE



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

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact PR & Policy Coordinator, Gillian O'Young on (02) 8252 6715 or via email at [gillian@consultaustralia.com.au](mailto:gillian@consultaustralia.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; Arup; Aquentia; Cox Architects; GHD; Hyder Consulting; Parsons Brinckerhoff; Sinclair Knight Merz; URS Australia; 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.