

SENSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS: TIME FOR ACTION

The National Commission of Audit delivers a strong foundation for a fresh debate about how best to deliver the infrastructure and services the community will demand in the generations to come.

Consult Australia's Chief Executive Megan Motto states: "If the government is serious about improving productivity, participation and value for money, then the recommendations from this report are a great starting point for action.

"The Commission's recommendations for more equitable distribution of infrastructure funding based on robust, transparent cost benefit analysis will help manage a strong pipeline of projects and support their delivery across jurisdictions.

"The recommendation for road user charging echoes equivalent recommendations in the Henry Tax Review and more recently in the draft report from the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Public Infrastructure. With the weight of evidence and informed opinion so strongly in favour of governments progressing towards road user charging, we must now just wait for some real leadership to drive this agenda.

"From a business perspective, the proposal to cap the Paid Parental Leave wage replacement rate at the level of Average Weekly Earnings, and to redirect the savings to expanded child care assistance, is an inspired and sensible approach to supporting new parents and improving women's workforce participation rates and the long-term economic well-being of primary carers.

"The recommendation to broaden the care options for parents is well overdue and fully supported. The cap for new child care support payments must be developed with reference to not just family income, but also to the much higher cost of child care in city centres—where very many professional women work.

"Often escaping public attention, but an important driver for business, is the focus given by the Commission to governments' delivery of value for money through their procurement processes.

"Recommendations for best practice contract management and a strategic and professional approach to procurement may not steal headlines, but are critical for business where government must take a leadership role as a model client.

"Consult Australia looks forward to working closely with the government to realise these recommendations, and help deliver a better return for business and the tax-payer. "

Ends

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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Consult Australia CEO, Megan Motto on 0411 104 458 or via email to megan@consultaaustralia.com.au.

MEDIA RELEASE



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