

MEDIA RELEASE



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

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Skills could be a lost without a pipeline of work

The NSW Government's Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program has been welcomed by industry, but it warns any investment in skills could be wasted without a long term pipeline of work that gives workers and their families confidence they will have a job beyond the current boom.

Industry association Consult Australia supports efforts announced by the Premier and his Ministers to promote 'learning workers', women, and indigenous participation as part of its infrastructure agenda.

State Manager, Matthew Trigg, says positive change requires leadership:

"Government needs to take the lead in leveraging their investment in infrastructure to achieve the greatest economic and social benefit. New South Wales is showing how this can be done."

"The setting of minimum targets for key projects such as Sydney Metro is critical to show both industry and the public sector what is possible beyond standard practice."

Uncertainty raises costs

The long term infrastructure framework due for release in 2017 must support the Skills Legacy Program, Jobs for Tomorrow, and all other programs aimed at ensuring we have the range and number of skilled workers and professionals needed to secure the future of the NSW economy.

"It will be a wasted opportunity if these people need to leave the State to find work" says Mr Trigg.

"Industry is better able to plan and keep their costs down if companies know the level of work that is expected in coming years and decades."

"Uncertainty in locations, routes or political support for the infrastructure pipeline will increase costs for taxpayers."

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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Consult Australia's NSW State Manager, Matthew Trigg on 02 8252 6708 or nsw@consultaustalia.com.au

About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the association that represents the business interests of consulting firms that design, engineer, assess and plan our built and natural environments.

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.

Consult Australia has undertaken significant work to further the discussion, including on how major works are financed and procured. For more visit www.consultaustalia.com.au