

‘THE FUTURE STARTS NOW’

Consult Australia support call to futureproof infrastructure corridors and save \$11bn

Friday 7th July 2017

The Chief Executive of the peak-body representing 49 000 consulting firms in the built environment has welcomed the latest cost-saving report from the nation’s independent infrastructure advisor.

[‘Corridor Protection’ by Infrastructure Australia](#) details how buying and protecting seven corridors, including that earmarked for high-speed rail, could save taxpayers \$11 billion in future costs.

Megan Motto, Chief Executive of Consult Australia, said: “This important report exemplifies the value an independent infrastructure adviser brings to Australia. It is a strategic consideration of growth, emphasising the importance of long-term vision, in a time of real change.

“Too many see the future as tomorrow’s challenge. It is not. The doctor is the child who chose to study decades prior. In much the same way, future cities are products of decisions taken today. The future starts now and it is critical state and territory governments protect infrastructure corridors.”

The financial modelling in the report covers seven transport corridor protection initiatives including the Outer Sydney Orbital Road and Rail Corridor; Western Sydney Freight Line and Intermodal Terminal; Hunter Valley Freight Rail Realignment; Outer Metropolitan Ring/E6 corridor in Melbourne; Port of Brisbane Freight Rail Connection; Western Sydney Airport Rail Connection and an east coast High Speed Rail project.

Ms. Motto added: “We marvel at the engineering brilliance of London’s 118 kilometre Crossrail carved beneath the UK’s capital, yet it cost \$26.4 billion - over \$200million per kilometre. Failure to protect the east coast high speed rail corridor from future growth in land prices and the necessity to tunnel could see equivalent figures for the project to come to fruition.”

“It is therefore, vital there is coordinated action by all levels of government to protect taxpayers from the calculated \$11 billion in land purchase and construction costs, and why Consult Australia supports Infrastructure Australia’s call for a national framework for corridor protection.”

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Interview requests: To interview Megan Motto, CEO of Consult Australia, please call +61 420901276

2. About the report: Infrastructure Australia's report Corridor Protection: Planning and Investing for the Long Term is available here: <http://infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/policy-publications/publications/corridor-protection.aspx>

3. About Consult Australia: Consult Australia is the industry association representing consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment sectors. These 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. 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.

4. About Megan Motto: Megan Motto is the Chief Executive Officer of Consult Australia; Member of the Government's new Cities Reference Group; a Director of Standards Australia; Councillor of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI); Treasurer of the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) and sits on the NSW State Advisory Council for the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA).