



*For immediate release: 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **“THIS LETTER SHOULD WORRY ALL THOSE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CANBERRA’S FUTURE.”**

#### **Industry body blasts Canberra Liberals ‘anti-investment’ letter**

The leading industry body for consultants in the built environment has blasted the Canberra Liberals for ‘playing politics’ with infrastructure, ignoring lessons from other states, and potentially presenting taxpayers a multi-million dollar bill with no return.

Consult Australia, who represent 48 000 firms across Australia, have called on the Canberra Liberals to better understand how industry operates following a letter sent to consortiums involved in the ACT Government’s Light Rail project, warning that a future Liberal government would end the project.

Kevin Keith, Consult Australia ACT Manager, said: “You cannot play politics with long-term infrastructure plans: it costs the tax-payer, it jeopardises long-term growth, and decimates industry-confidence.”

“This letter should worry all those optimistic about Canberra’s future. It is a letter that implies Governments can chop-and-change infrastructure plans every four years; it is a letter that renders planning irrelevant as new governments can simply tear-up the work of the previous and start again; it is a letter that raises sovereign risk issues and could see the taxpayer having to pay hundreds of millions of dollars for nothing in return – as has just happened in Victoria. It is anti-growth, anti-industry, and anti-investment.”

“Our advice to the Canberra Liberals is not to set this precedent, not to decimate Canberra’s ability to have vision or a long-term plan, by threatening intervention at a time when Canberra’s economy needs less politics not more.”

Consult Australia is made up of some of the world’s largest companies combining local and federal work, to independent sole traders using their skills to make Canberra a better place. Members include engineers, architects, economists, planners, management consultants, surveyors and more, who work in the built environment. You can find out more by visiting [www.consultaustralia.com.au](http://www.consultaustralia.com.au)

**ENDS**

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **1. CONTACT**

For more information about this release or to arrange an interview, please call:

Kevin Keith [Consult Australia ACT Manager] on 0420 901276

### **2. ABOUT CONSULT AUSTRALIA**

Consult Australia is the leading not-for-profit association that represents consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment. We do this at a commercial, community, industry, and government level through collaboration, education, support and advocacy.

We represent an industry comprising roughly 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.

Our members employ more than 65,000 staff across Australia.

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