

Better Planning, Better Procurement, A Better WA

Today Consult Australia launches '**Better Planning, Better Procurement, A Better WA**' which calls on whoever forms government post 11 March to '**cooperate more**' and '**conflict less**' with those in the built environment.

Whilst there have been several major and transformational infrastructure projects completed within the State over the last 10 years, the tough economic conditions, coupled with a highly litigious operating environment, has made it unnecessarily difficult for everyone involved.

Consult Australia's call for "Better Planning, Better Procurement, A Better WA" is a call for a more cooperative and collaborative contracting environment between government and industry so that major projects can be built on time and on budget but without the unnecessary conflict and legal stoushes which have dominated of late." Industry association Consult Australia, State Manager Steven Coghlan said.

"From a **planning perspective**, the key to obtaining and retaining the skills necessary to design and construct the State's future infrastructure will be to provide much better long term planning through an **independent statutory authority**." said Steve Coghlan.

"From a **procurement perspective**, considering the fast approaching \$40Billion State deficit, it is time to **start buying smarter and not harder**" with a Consult Australia commissioned Deloitte Access Economics report released in February 2015, *Economic Benefits of Better Procurement Practices*, finding there could be significant savings for government by just buying smarter.

"The report we commissioned found that direct savings of around 5.4% can be achieved across governments' procurement of professional services supporting the delivery of new infrastructure, but these savings will only be achieved if Government engage early through better planning and collaborate with Industry to streamline the current procurement process" said Steve Coghlan.

Consult Australia remains committed to working closely with any Western Australian Government post-election to ensure that the State's future infrastructure investment is better planned and better procured in a way that ultimately benefits the people of the State.

Ends

10 Feb 2017

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Consult Australia's State Manager, Steve Coghlan on 0404 831 627 or via email at wa@consultaustalia.com.au.

About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the industry association that represents the business interests of consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment. Our member firms include: AECOM, Beca, SMEC, GHD, Jacobs, Calibre Consulting, Golder Associates, Kellogg Brown & Root, Opus International Consultants, Aurecon, Arcadis, Rider Levett Bucknall, and WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff. 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.