

The Victorian budget will help sure up industry's pipeline of works

Consult Australia welcomes the 2020-21 Victorian State Budget

Victoria – Consult Australia welcomes the 2020-21 Victorian State Budget's focus on infrastructure and attracting more investments in the built environment.

The spread of investments – from schools, hospitals, social housing and transport projects – coupled with measures that will attract more investments in the property market, will ensure benefits are spread across industry and the community.

Consult Australia welcomes the focus on new projects, in addition to fast-tracking existing projects. This will ensure Victoria continues to have a long-term pipeline of public works, and will benefit businesses providing the upfront design, advisory and engineering services for these new projects.

From an infrastructure and built environment perspective, the Victorian Government has effectively responded to current market challenges. Many of Consult Australia's members have previously flagged concerns about the outlook for their pipeline of works, and the announcements in the budget will help create more confidence across industry.

Nicola Grayson, Chief Executive of Consult Australia, said:

“We are particularly pleased to see a focus on social infrastructure in the 2020-21 Victorian state budget. We believe this will help respond to a drop in business for many of our members who provide services for private building projects.”

“We welcome the Government's focus on encouraging more property projects through tax and planning changes. This recognises the important role the government can play in creating a strong pipeline of private sector projects by improving investment conditions.”

“The 2020-21 state budget again demonstrates the Victorian Government's commitment to infrastructure and the built environment. The next step will be delivering these substantial investments as effectively as possible, and the expertise of our industry stands ready to assist the government.”

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NOTES TO EDITOR

1. 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, cost management, 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 48,000 firms across Australia, ranging from sole practitioners through to some of Australia's top 500 firms with combined revenue exceeding \$40 billion a year.

2. About Nicola Grayson

Nicola Grayson is the Chief Executive of Consult Australia. Nicola is responsible for implementing the organisation's strategy, building ongoing external relationships, and for leading Consult Australia's advocacy and government relations agenda on behalf of member firms.

Nicola is a government relations specialist, and has represented industry associations in the United Kingdom, the European Union, and Australia. Nicola has worked across a range of sectors including general insurance, consumer finance, alcohol, and education, in addition to consulting engineering. She has an Honours Degree in Law from the United Kingdom and was previously Consult Australia's Director of Policy and Government Relations.

3. For interview

For more information and to arrange an interview, please contact Nicola Grayson directly on 0499 878 839 or email nicola@consultaustalia.com.au.