

CONSULT AUSTRALIA WELCOMES QUEENSLAND STATE BUDGET 2020-21

Queensland's investment in the forward pipeline of work, future skills, job creation and small business is supported by Consult Australia

Today the Queensland Treasurer, Cameron Dick MP released the Queensland Budget 2020-21. Consult Australia welcomes the job creation focus of the government to ensure the economic recovery from COVID-19. This focus through investments in a broad range of sectors, will ensure benefits are spread across the community and industry.

Consult Australia represents design, advisory, and engineering consulting businesses, an industry comprising some 48,000 firms across Australia. Our industry is a job creator for the Australian economy, directly employing 240,000 people. The services we provide unlock many more jobs across the construction industry and the broader community.

Nicola Grayson, Chief Executive of Consult Australia, said, 'The government's commitment to infrastructure and the built environment is welcomed. The challenge will be delivering these substantial investments as effectively as possible, and the expertise of our industry stands ready to assist.'

The infrastructure investment will grow the state's regions with 58% of the \$14.8 billion capital program in 2020-21 capital program being outside of the Greater Brisbane area. Social infrastructure investments in health facilities is also worth noting, Consult Australia encourages the Queensland Government to continue this focus on social infrastructure by creating demand for underutilised skills in the buildings sector.

'It is great to see the continued acknowledgement by the government that economic prosperity depends on having a skilled workforce' Grayson said.

The government has committed \$21 million to extend free TAFE and free apprenticeships to Queenslanders aged under 25 (an opportunity previously available to those under 21). Importantly, engineering is one of the priority qualification areas.

Noting that small businesses have been among the hardest hit by COVID-19, the 2020-21 budget includes programs that back these businesses including various loans, grants and tax relief measures.

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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NOTES TO EDITOR

1. About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the industry association representing consulting businesses in design, advisory and engineering. Our industry comprises some 48,000 businesses across Australia, ranging from sole practitioners through to some of Australia's top 500 companies, providing solutions for individual consumers through to major companies in the private sector and across all tiers of government. Our industry is a job creator for the Australian economy, directly employing 240,000 people. The services we provide unlock many more jobs across the construction industry and the broader community.

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 members.

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 +61499 878 839 or email nicola@consultaaustralia.com.au.