

LEADING BODY WELCOMES 'WORLD CLASS' APPOINTMENTS TO INFRASTRUCTURE SA

Sir Rod Eddington and the Hon. Mark Birrell declared a 'statement of intent.'

Consult Australia has welcomed the appointments of former Infrastructure Australia chairmen Sir Rod Eddington and the Hon. Mark Birrell to provide advice to the SA Government on the development of Infrastructure SA.

Earlier this year [30/01/18] Consult Australia, who represent an industry of 50 000 consulting firms in in the built environment, published *'Infrastructure Governance in Australia'* which included a model for a nation-wide approach to infrastructure planning and delivery. It included a specific call for the creation of Infrastructure SA.

Jan Irvine, State Manager for Consult Australia in South Australia, said: "It's not just about getting an infrastructure body, it's about getting the right infrastructure body. This means a reporting mechanism to Parliament, as opposed to the Premier; a long-term plan developed, and project priority list published; and alignment with Infrastructure Australia on project assessment."

"It also means getting the right mix of skills from the public and private sector involved," added Irvine. "These advisory appointments are world-class and a real statement of intent with regards to the future planning of infrastructure in South Australia. Consult Australia looks forward to being involved in the process as it continues to develop."

Infrastructure SA is expected to have a seven-person board and an independent chair, with legislation to establish the body to be introduced in the next sitting week of parliament.

'Infrastructure Governance in Australia' is available at www.consultaustralia.com.au

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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 and a longstanding advocate of independent infrastructure bodies.

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.

Their 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.

2. About the 'Infrastructure Governance in Australia' report

Consult Australia has launched its Thought Leadership Paper entitled, 'Infrastructure Governance in Australia', which proposes the following model for independent infrastructure bodies ('Ibodies') in all jurisdictions.

3. Recommendations for South Australia

Consult Australia recommends that in South Australia an independent infrastructure body be created by an Act of Parliament. The Act will set out the function and structure of the infrastructure bodies based on four core components, independence, planning, assessment, and prioritisation.

[Independence](#)

- 1) The functions of the infrastructure body will be set out in legislation, and the Government (via the Premier) will not be allowed to direct or control its activities.
- 2) All strategies and plans prepared by the infrastructure body will be responded to by the Government within a specified period. The strategy, plans, and Government response must be presented to Parliament, thus promoting bipartisan support and accountability to Parliament.
- 3) If the Government wants to deliver an infrastructure project that is not included in the pipeline, or change the order of priority, it must seek Parliamentary approval.
- 4) The Board of the infrastructure body will be a balance of representatives from the public and private sectors. Private sector representatives must have appropriate skills relevant to infrastructure strategy/planning/delivery, including design and construction.

Planning

- 5) The infrastructure body will be responsible for developing:
 - Long-term infrastructure strategies, and
 - Shorter-term plans to underpin and deliver against the aims of the strategy.
- 6) The strategies and plans will be developed with a formal process of engagement across all stakeholders, political, public sector, business, interest groups, community groups etc. The other infrastructure bodies should also be included to ensure that the strategy and plans have cross-jurisdictional alignment and interconnectedness.
- 7) The plans will have consistent assessment components (objectives) formed around productivity, livability, and sustainability (including integrated land-use) that can be reported and measured against.

Assessment

- 8) The Infrastructure body will provide project implementation plans for major infrastructure projects (the amount to be defined in the legislation).

- 9) Project evaluation and benefit realisation will be embedded within the decision-making processes, as a condition of funding and as a core component of project scoping.
- 10) Infrastructure Australia and the other infrastructure bodies, are to work together to develop national guidelines for business case development, consistent with Infrastructure Australia's assessment guidelines.

Prioritisation

- 11) The infrastructure body will assess and publish a pipeline of priority infrastructure projects.
- 12) The methodology for the assessment of priority projects should be based on an agreed framework of assessment principles.
- 13) The infrastructure body will have responsibility for the review, evaluation, oversight, and monitoring of infrastructure delivery (but not project delivery).

2. For more information and to arrange an interview

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