

A MINISTER FOR CITIES – THE MISSING PIECE

Industry association representing built environment consultancy firms, Consult Australia has welcomed Prime Minister Rudd's cities announcement, declaring it a missing piece for cities.

Consult Australia's CEO, Megan Motto said the move is an important step towards realising the full potential of cities as key drivers for jobs and productivity and demands bi-partisan support.

"The leadership, vision and investment facilitated through a Minister for Cities will help boost productivity and jobs and provide for more sustainable growth across our urban centres," said Ms Motto.

"It would be naive of anyone to criticise the creation of a Federal Minister for Cities as treading on the patch of local or state government.

"This provides a missing piece of governance that will help deliver national policy priorities, support smart infrastructure investment and see better health, education, business and environmental outcomes across Australia.

"The Minister should work across portfolios to support smarter policy that leverages investment in infrastructure and urban development; achieving a better standard of living for the over 80 per cent of Australia's that choose to live and work in our cities."

As part of the Urban Coalition of 10 leading industry bodies, Consult Australia has consistently lobbied for the appointment of a Minister for Cities, and also the establishment of a National Urban Fund to unlock private sector finance for infrastructure investment.

"Critical to the success of Prime Minister Rudd's initiative will be parallel investments in the infrastructure now critical to lifting productivity," said Ms Motto.

"We must move beyond the election patchwork of grants to new and innovative funding models that release new investment in infrastructure.

"An Urban Infrastructure Fund – essentially a type of infrastructure bond scheme – is exactly the type of innovative thinking urgently required.

"Our cities are a national priority and their development through this type of leadership and new investment must be supported through a clear bipartisan approach."

Ends

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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact PR & Policy Coordinator, Gillian O'Young on (02) 9922 4711 or via email at gillian@consultaustalia.com.au.

About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the leading not-for-profit association that represents the business interests of consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment.

MEDIA RELEASE



Driving Business Success for Consulting Firms in the Built and Natural Environment

Our member firms include: AECOM; Arup; Aquentia; Cox Architects; GHD; Hyder Consulting; Parsons Brinckerhoff; URS Australia; and WorleyParsons.

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.