

CATCHING THE NEXT WAVE OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS FOR NSW

Industry association, Consult Australia's NSW Division has responded to the Productivity Commission's draft report into public infrastructure through its latest policy platform: *Promoting Excellence in the Built Environment*.

Consult Australia's NSW State Manager, Alexia Lidas said that the Association has long advocated for alternate funding and financing schemes at a national, state and local level.

"In NSW alone there are over 8,000 firms consulting in the built environment—all of whom have been buoyed by recent momentum across the state and are eagerly awaiting the next wave of projects to see this continue," said Ms Lidas.

"The Productivity Commission's focus on funding and financing barriers taken alongside the NSW Government's progress in delivering a range of state-building projects like light rail, WestConnex, North West Rail and the F3-M2 link demonstrates the importance of a whole-of-government commitment to a secure and stable infrastructure pipeline."

Planning and developing the next wave of infrastructure projects; releasing new funds for infrastructure investment; supporting best practice procurement; and creating a better business environment are all recommendations outlined in the Association's NSW policy platform.

"Consult Australia believes that these initiatives will help secure a more productive, prosperous future for NSW through more competitive businesses, new jobs and a better built environment," said Ms Lidas.

In 2013 Consult Australia, in conjunction with member firm Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM) Jacobs launched *Capturing Value*—a document that details the strong policy platform for value capture.

"The return on investment from our highways, rail and urban public transport infrastructure is clear. With estimates suggesting some \$2.85 for every \$1 invested, that alone is a persuasive indicator of the potential for infrastructure to drive productivity," said Ms Lidas.

"In this context, the potential for value capture mechanisms to contribute to Australia's urban renewal and public transport funding shortfall is enormous.

"Establishing a Value Capture Unit within Infrastructure NSW is just one of the recommendations we have included in our policy platform.

"*Promoting Excellence in the Built Environment* provides the basis for a new conversation with all spheres of government as we work together to drive success in NSW."

Ends

20 March 2014

Please [click here](#) to download the NSW Policy Platform.

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact NSW State Manager, Alexia Lidas on 02 8252 6708 or alexia@consultaustalia.com.au.

MEDIA RELEASE



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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.

Our member firms include: AECOM, Brown Consulting, Golder Associates, Kellogg Brown & Root, Opus International Consultants, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Robert Bird Group, 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.