

INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN FIRMS WELCOME BADGERYS CREEK AIRPORT

Western Sydney Airport Alliance member and industry association, Consult Australia has labelled the Government's go-ahead of Badgerys Creek as a great example of true nation building, foresight and planning.

"First with the preservation of Badgerys Creek and now its approval as the site of a second Airport, we can see that the Government recognises the need to invest today, for what we want Australia to be in the future," said Ms Motto.

"If we're going to think about 21st century infrastructure, we need to consider those modes that offer the best return on investment in terms of jobs and productivity.

"A Western Sydney Airport exemplifies this kind of infrastructure, and is critical to meeting demand and ensuring national productivity growth in the decades ahead."

The Association quoted its latest economic forecast report to stress how critical this piece of infrastructure will be particularly for the NSW economy.

"Consult Australia's most recent Quarterly Economic Forecast indicates that while engineering construction activity increased in almost all states, in NSW there was a fall in activity of 12 per cent," said Ms Motto.

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

"The construction of not only the airport itself, but also the related road network are all part of a much-needed infrastructure package that will indeed deliver long overdue investment into the region."

The Association has stressed the importance of community and stakeholder engagement to inform the planning and delivery of the Airport.

"As the Government has rightly recognised, critical to the success of this piece of infrastructure will be working with the community and business to plan towards the development of the first stage of the airport," said Ms Motto.

"Consult Australia welcomes this extraordinary move by the Government, which signals that over 60 years of debate may finally be transforming into 21st century infrastructure."

Ends

15 April 2014

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact PR & Policy Advisor, Gillian O'Young on (02) 8252 6715 or via email at gillian@consultaaustralia.com.au.

About Consult Australia

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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, Rider Levett Bucknall, 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.