

MEDIA RELEASE

FEDERAL BUDGET 2021-22

11 MAY 2021



A CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO AN INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRY-LED RECOVERY

NATIONAL – Consult Australia, the industry body for businesses in design, advisory, and engineering, congratulates the Australian Government for its continued commitment to an infrastructure and industry-led economic recovery.

The Australian Government’s commitment to increase overall infrastructure investments by \$15 billion is welcomed by Consult Australia. This increase in infrastructure investments, on top of already record levels, highlights the continued importance of unlocking industry capacity to deliver an ambitious project pipeline.

Nicola Grayson, Chief Executive Officer said:

“It is fantastic to see the Australian Government’s commitment to a broad-ranging pipeline of infrastructure and built environment projects, and this will lead to broad-ranging benefits across industry.”

“We welcome the Government’s commitment to pursue procurement improvements that increase direct engagements of smaller and medium-sized businesses on Commonwealth projects. This will ensure SMEs will get their share from government investments, and be able to showcase their specialist capabilities.”

Consult Australia also applauds the Australian Government’s commitments under the Digital Economy Strategy.

Grayson said: “The availability of skills across the infrastructure market will continue to be a challenge until at least mid-2022. The Australian Government can support this challenge through informed conversations how projects can be sequenced alongside the overall pipeline, and by boosting capacity and productivity by promoting the digital solutions to infrastructure delivery.”

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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 member firms.

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@consultaustalia.com.au.