

## 100 per cent lack of confidence in South Australia's future

Lack of economic stimulation by government has caused significant damage to South Australia's infrastructure design industry according to survey results released today by industry association, Consult Australia.

The survey data has revealed over 80 per cent of South Australia's infrastructure design firms have made targeted redundancies in the past six months with more expected before the end of 2013.

The same results showed a stalled intake of graduates with 82 per cent of firms indicating they did not anticipate recruiting any entry level employees for at least another six months.

100 per cent of respondents declared a lack of confidence in the industry's future, claiming they do not feel federal or state governments have been doing enough to stimulate the economy.

Consult Australia's South Australian State Manager, Jan Irvine warned that if securing a stable pipeline of work is not prioritised by the SA Government, damage to the industry will become permanent.

"In the past six months alone, 83 per cent of South Australian firms surveyed have made staff redundant, and of these 80 per cent were permanent employees," said Ms Irvine.

"This is a critical loss, worsened by the fact that professionals are also moving interstate and overseas to seek work and, under current conditions, are unlikely to return.

"This will impact the South Australian industry's future capacity to deliver infrastructure projects and prove extraordinarily detrimental to small and medium enterprises."

Consult Australia has advised that the condition of the industry is indicative of underinvestment in infrastructure by the Government and is symptomatic of declining business confidence in the economy.

"The Federal, state and local governments all need to be doing more to stimulate the South Australian economy," said Ms Irvine.

"With the state's services industry evaporating, the urgency with which governments needs to invest in those firms in the built environment is becoming increasingly critical.

"Without sufficient investment, soon local communities and indeed the entire state will see their infrastructure failing, with no one left to fix it."

**Ends**

23 June 2013

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact SA State Manager, Jan Irvine on (08) 8216 1177 or 0408 845 975 or via email at [jan@consultaaustralia.com.au](mailto:jan@consultaaustralia.com.au).