

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



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

Industry warns more is needed to get South Australia back on track

Industry Association, Consult Australia welcomes the Government's blueprint for the state's transport future but warns that without proper financing, the Plan will do little to deliver the certainty and business confidence the state needs.

Consult Australia's South Australian State Manager, Jan Irvine said that all parties must now start thinking hard about innovative ways to deal with the infrastructure backlog across the state.

"The *Integrated Transport and Land Use Plan* fails to outline robust funding plans to get the state back on track," said Ms Irvine.

"Earlier this year Consult Australia released data which revealed over 80 per cent of South Australia's infrastructure design firms had made targeted redundancies and that there was an overwhelming lack of confidence in the industry's future.

"This is of great concern. What South Australians and industry needs is for all policy levers to be put on the table.

"Initiatives like value capture (infrastructure and urban renewal funding mechanisms that are closely tied to increases in public tax revenues from private property), user-charges and—where justified by a thorough cost benefit analysis—increases in government debt, all need to be considered to fund the infrastructure that will boost productivity in the state.

"Consult Australia's recommendations for these and other appropriate governance mechanisms are about supporting a longer term debate about the future of infrastructure in South Australia.

"Our recommendation for Infrastructure South Australia as an independent transparent and expert authority to provide advice on a long-term funded pipeline of projects is a logical next step."