

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

Submitted to: The Examiner
Regarding: *Liberals launch infrastructure plan*
14 February 2014

Infrastructure Tasmania—Never been a more critical time

There has never been a more important time to improve the decision making process that informs the government's infrastructure plan.

The Tasmanian opposition's recent announcement that they would establish Infrastructure Tasmania as independent, expert source of advice on infrastructure priorities has never been more essential for the long-term plan for the future of this state.

The development of a 10 year fully-funded priority plan and delivery schedule for infrastructure across Tasmania is an integral part of supporting an interagency focus on transport, water, energy, communications and social infrastructure.

The establishment of Infrastructure Australia, Infrastructure NSW, Infrastructure QLD and the Western Australia Infrastructure coordinating committee, leaves Tasmania as one of the lone remaining states and territories lacking an equivalent mechanism supporting government's infrastructure decision making.

With rising construction costs, and closer scrutiny by tax-payers, it would be naive to dismiss the establishment of Infrastructure Tasmania as an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy, or as an institution with functions that should be performed through existing departments.

Rather, Infrastructure Tasmania should be prioritised by the current government and instituted as an invaluable partnership between industry and government securing the best outcomes for the community. This would provide a positive step towards better value for money, a better built environment and a stronger foundation for the next phase of Tasmania's economic growth.

Whatever the outcome of Tasmania's election, it is the government's responsibility to deliver an equivalent outcome and hold future infrastructure decisions properly to account.