

A FOCUS ON CITIES FOR A CHANGE

Australia's consulting industry has today called for genuine government leadership to achieve more productive, sustainable and liveable cities across Australia.

Megan Motto, Chief Executive Officer of the industry association for professional services firms in the built and natural environment, Consult Australia, said the absence of visionary leadership, governance reform and investment will see Australians will continue to be denied adequate infrastructure and planning.

"The State of Australian Cities report launched today by Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, underscores the need to refocus policy on the growth of our cities and the investments urgently needed today," said Ms Motto.

"Our attention is once again drawn to the fact that over 77 per cent of Australians live in cities with a population of more than 100,000; that cities produce 80 per cent of our national wealth.

"Governments must wake up to the fact that planning and funding the infrastructure our cities need to grow and prosper is not a luxury to be indulged only during a budget surplus.

"Investing in infrastructure supporting our cities is an investment in liveability, productivity, and in business within those cities.

"Given the frustrations many Australians face every day just to get to work, a more ambitious approach by governments delivering real benefits in our cities would be welcomed by many.

"Across Australia there are significant opportunities to deliver reform supporting a better quality of life for Australian's living in our cities. In Victoria, Queensland and South Australia infrastructure investment has stalled while Sydney struggles against the red-tape nightmare created by 42 local councils.

"Securing a long-term approach to the prioritisation of our cities that lasts beyond any single election cycle or change in government is essential.

"The challenge to sustain momentum lies with government. Much more needs to be done to achieve the vision we seek for Australia's cities," said Ms Motto.

Ends

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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact PR & Policy Coordinator, Gillian O'Young on (02) 9922 4711 or via email at gillian@consultaustalia.com.au.