

BUDGET SPELLS DOOM FOR QUEENSLAND INFRASTRUCTURE

Industry association, Consult Australia has predicted a decline of 11 per cent in engineering construction for Queensland following the lack of infrastructure investment announced in the state Budget.

Data from the Association's *Economic Forecast* report reveals an already sharp fall in construction commencements in Queensland in the year to date.

Consult Australia Queensland State Manager, Stacey Rawlings warns that lack of investment in nation building projects will see engineering construction activity in rapid decline by 2014/15.

"In today's state Budget, fiscal discipline has come at the expense of a longer term productivity agenda supporting growth," said Ms Rawlings.

"Alongside deferred change to the payroll tax threshold, for a pro-growth Government little has been done to encourage businesses to grow investments in Queensland.

"If the state Government is serious about supporting the future of knowledge intensive services industries then they should make the necessary investments to ensure those services remain in Queensland.

"Without sound investment in productivity the built environment industry will continue to contract.

"It is disappointing that the uncertainty created by the Federal Election in September appears to be directly impacting investment in Queensland.

"With not one, but two electoral cycles seeming to drive infrastructure investment, it seems we might have a better chance of a lunar eclipse than getting what we need for the state.

"The short term focus on returning the budget to surplus in lieu of sound infrastructure investment will result in a loss of skills interstate and overseas and will have a direct impact on the viability of many SME's.

"The good governance established by Infrastructure Queensland and Projects Queensland should be fully utilised to establish a stronger pipeline of major projects, supported by private sector investment that are ready for delivery in the short and medium-term.

"There comes a time when the reviews, plans, strategies, committees, considerations and revisions need to be realised with some shovels, trucks and cranes. In Queensland, that time is now."

Ends

4 June 2013

For further information please contact Queensland State Manager, Stacey Rawlings on 0404 123 869 or via email to stacey@consultaustalia.com.au.

MEDIA RELEASE



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Consult Australia is the leading not-for-profit association that represents the business interests of consulting firms operating in the built and natural environment.

Our member firms include: AECOM; Arup; Aquentia; Cox Architects; GHD; Hyder Consulting; Parsons Brinckerhoff; URS Australia; and WorleyParsons.

We represent an industry comprising some 48,000 firms across Australia, ranging from sole practitioners through to some of Australia's top 500 firms. Collectively, our industry is estimated to employ over 240,000 people, and generate combined revenue exceeding \$40 billion a year.