

## **BOOST FOR SMALL BUSINESS, BUT IDLE ON INFRASTRUCTURE**

Supporting small business and start ups and providing long term economic stability for business overall are clear themes coming from the Federal budget.

Megan Motto, Consult Australia Chief Executive stated, 'There is little new money for infrastructure. The Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility may generate up to \$5 billion of new investment in partnership with the private sector, but more substantial seed funding and a broader remit for this fund would multiply the benefits.

'The Government's commitment to maintain \$3 billion as a contingent liability in the Budget for East West Link underscores the long-term fall-out of bad infrastructure decision making. We cannot simply stuff this money under the mattress; it must be used with urgency to substantiate the vacuum created with the cancellation of East West Link.

'Second only to babies, small business is perhaps tonight's big winner.

'It is great to see the Government support smaller firms with real tax benefits, accelerated depreciation and reduced red-tape making it genuinely easier to do business. These changes for small business will help drive productivity and jobs.

'The government has taken two steps forward and two steps back supporting women returning to work.

'A more flexible approach to child-care and the trial of nannies is smart policy.

'The notion that parents have been 'double-dipping' benefits by receiving incentives from their employers is plain nonsense.

'Top up payments provided by employers to encourage women to stay connected and return to work should be supported, not disincentivised. The government needs to re-think its approach.

'A mixed budget all up, but one that will boost confidence and immediate investment by small business...hope the computer and office supply stores are opening early tomorrow!'

### **Ends**

12 May 2015

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Consult Australia's CEO, Megan Motto on 0411 104 458 or via email at [megan@consultaustalia.com.au](mailto:megan@consultaustalia.com.au).

# MEDIA RELEASE



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