

## CONGESTION YET TO SQUEEZE MORE DOLLARS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure Australia's landmark Australian Infrastructure Audit is a wake-up call to governments, business and the community about the urgency of planning, investing and delivering new infrastructure to safeguard future productivity and living standards.

Industry association Consult Australia, Chief Executive Megan Motto welcomed the report: 'Off the back of a Federal Budget with little new spending for infrastructure, this report highlights the urgency of more substantive investment. The Government's much promoted infrastructure spend of \$50 billion will be outstripped by congestion costs of \$53 billion as soon as 2031.

'The Federal Budget was one of the first in memory with no new funds for major projects. This report highlights that now is not the time to take a year off from new infrastructure investment.

'While NSW has demonstrated the foresight to take advantage of the Federal Government's generous asset recycling initiative, this report illustrates that QLD will be left behind if it does not free up old assets for new investment.

'We must keep the foot on the pedal to keep pace with the growth we know will expand our cities, and put pressure on our transport networks. This cannot be done by governments alone, we must also get the settings right for new private sector investment, and as a start we can stop the flip-flopping on projects between elections.

'If commuters think their trip to work is bad now, then this report demonstrates they need to start voting with an eye to their commute over the next decade.

'Critically this report illustrates that political point scoring and debates about road vs. rail, or cities vs. regions are just wasting time.

'We must consider investments with a view to the infrastructure network as a whole. Investments in public transport will ease pressure on our roads, and investment in our roads, rail, ports, pipelines and airports are critical to support freight movements, the export of our goods and services, and jobs growth.

'All governments have a responsibility to maximise their infrastructure investment based on the benefits for jobs and productivity, not just tolls and patronage forecasts. Whether it is road, rail, public transport or freight, in cities or regions, we will all benefit

'Whether we are talking about tradies getting to their customers, or parents dropping their kids off at child care, ultimately we are all dependent on the infrastructure investments of decades past for the quality of life we enjoy today.'

**Ends**

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# MEDIA RELEASE



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

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@consultaaustralia.com.au](mailto:megan@consultaaustralia.com.au).

## About Consult Australia

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, GHD, Jacobs, Calibre Consulting, Golder Associates, Kellogg Brown & Root, Opus International Consultants, Aurecon, Rider Levett Bucknall, WSP/PB 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.