

## STRONG CHOICES BUDGET

Industry association, Consult Australia has welcomed asset sales, but predicted continuing lean and patchy times for built environment consultants with no major new infrastructure announced in the Queensland Government's Budget today.

Consult Australia Queensland State Manager, Stacey Rawlings observed: "Future asset sales forecast to raise some \$33 billion are a welcome injection of new funds. But only 25 per cent of these proceeds are allocated for infrastructure investment, with 75 per cent used to pay down debt.

"We appreciate the balance the Government must strike between paying down debt and investing in new projects. But we believe this balance should sit more strongly in favour of infrastructure investment.

"The Government should prioritise greater investment in productivity that will be driven by new projects, and will ultimately contribute to a more sustainable bottom line in the future.

"In this context, a 25 per cent allocation from these asset sales is not enough.

"Without substantially greater investment in infrastructure the built environment industry will continue to contract.

"Off the back of a strong Federal Budget for infrastructure, our industry is positive about the opportunity to reclaim Queensland as a hub for professional built environment consultants.

"Investment supporting the delivery of existing projects on the Bruce Highway, the Gateway Upgrade North, and the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing are critical to sustain the industry.

"However, growth is ultimately dependent on a robust longer-term, funded infrastructure pipeline that supports business investment in the state.

"Alongside additional infrastructure investment, the Government should continue to resource Infrastructure Queensland and Projects Queensland to clearly establish a long-term pipeline of major projects, supported by private sector investment.

"With the investment realised by these asset sales, it is critical we are positioned to deliver maximum value for money for the tax-payer across the state."

### Ends

3 June 2014

For further information please contact Queensland State Manager, Stacey Rawlings on 0404 123 869 or via email to [stacey@consultaaustralia.com.au](mailto:stacey@consultaaustralia.com.au).

# MEDIA RELEASE



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

## 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; 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.