

## Response to the 2021 Australian Infrastructure Plan

The Australian Constructors Association calls on the Federal Government to lead reform now. We all have a role to play and outlined below is industry's response to progressing the Australian Infrastructure Plan. Various initiatives are underway that, if adopted, will lead to the implementation and realisation of reform that will help create a more sustainable construction industry within the next 5 years.

Plan recommendation: deliver greater return on investment

Aligning investment and reforms with a unified and central vision for Australian Infrastructure.

Establish a government and industry leadership group to expand and promote reforms and best practices.

- Create a common national infrastructure vision.
- · Report against the Infrastructure Decision-Making Principles.

Bring forward the establishment of the National government and industry leadership group with a clear mandate to implement reforms.

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Industry and government to agree and document best practice.

Plan recommendation: improve industry productivity and value for money

Industry is a sector of choice for employees and meets workforce demands by embracing diversity and inclusion.

Develop and implement an infrastructure industry culture commitment.

Embed the infrastructure culture commitment through existing procurement frameworks and pre-qualification schemes.

Improve productivity and attractiveness of the sector by promoting a five-day working week and working hour limits.

Adopt the construction industry Culture Standard developed by the Construction Industry Culture Taskforce.

Deliver a workforce attraction and retention strategy.

Empower public sector project professionals and incentivise organisation leadership to be innovative and adopt best practices.

Expand the work of the Construction Industry Leadership Forum to develop national attraction and retention strategy

Plan recommendation: reduce uncertainty for industry and improve value for money

Use best practice commercial arrangements and standard contract forms used and supported by a culture of genuine innovation.

Develop a procurement decision-making tool to more effectively understand and allocate scope in line with project fundamentals.

Develop and implement nationally consistent contract suite to support a spectrum of procurement models.

· Utilise more collaborative commercial models that facilitate value for money and smaller engagements directly with contractors and consultants.

Industry and government to develop:

· a Collaboration Framework

· harmonised common commercial terms

guidance on procurement models and packaging strategies

· guidance to define value for money, including performance metrics

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· Align innovation criteria in bid assessment with project and organisational needs.

Conduct constructability, operability and maintainability reviews on projects and repeat at multiple stages of the project's lifecycle.

Kick-start digital by default in infrastructure by verifying all federally funded projects adopt innovative approaches across their lifecycle, including Building Information Modelling, digital engineering, embedded sensors and digital asset management. Strengthen nationally consistent guidance, tools and templates to match these objectives.

Government and industry to work together to develop performance based specifications on major road projects and innovation criteria harmonised across jurisdictions.

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