

# CONSTRUCTING AUSTRALIA

## INDUSTRY'S INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES



CIVIL CONTRACTORS  
FEDERATION

### It is clear Australia's infrastructure is under increasing strain.

The arteries of our nation - our roads, rail, bridges, pipelines, ports and utilities - face higher levels of demand from an increasing population.

The Civil Contractors Federation, the voice of Australia's civil construction industry, is pursuing a set of key policy priorities to deliver much needed reform in Australian infrastructure policy.

The Civil construction industry stands ready to deliver the infrastructure Australians deserve and expect.

“Through these priorities we call on a future Government to listen to industry, adopt these reforms and set the foundations to secure Australia's future prosperity - today.”

Chris Melham  
Civil Contractors Federation  
Chief Executive Officer

### INDUSTRY'S INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

1. Increase Infrastructure Investment and Funding
2. Ensure Efficient, Equitable and Competitive Procurement
3. Reform Skill Development and Training
4. Enhance Industrial Relations
5. Protecting and Enhancing the Viability of Civil Industry Businesses

## INFRASTRUCTURE MATTERS IN AUSTRALIA

CONSTRUCTION  
CONTRIBUTES  
**\$134.2**  
BILLION TO THE  
ECONOMY

8.1% OF  
AUSTRALIA'S GDP



**8.9%**  
OF AUSTRALIA'S  
WORKFORCE

EMPLOYS



1.1 MILLION  
AUSTRALIANS



**345,480**  
BUSINESSES



# INDUSTRY'S INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

Civil Contractors Federation (CCF) represents the reforms industry feels are necessary to meet the increasing demand on Australia's infrastructure while fully realising the potential such an investment promises for the Australian people and their future prosperity. Our Agenda is five-fold comprising:

1. Increase Infrastructure Investment and Funding
2. Ensure Efficient, Equitable and Competitive Procurement
3. Reform Skill Development and Training
4. Enhance Industrial Relations
5. Protecting and Enhancing the Viability of Civil Industry Businesses



## 1. INCREASE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND FUNDING

### CCF Key Priorities:

- Use of debt funding for productive infrastructure projects
- Sustainable pipeline of Commonwealth civil infrastructure projects
- Fair distribution of project allocation and funding across State and Territories

To meet the requirements of a growing Australia the Commonwealth Government should immediately expand the spend and scope of productivity-enhancing public infrastructure across Australia.

To ensure Australians receive the infrastructure they expect and deserve the Commonwealth and State Governments should engage with industry and infrastructure agencies to develop longer term infrastructure plans and build bipartisan support.

This approach will deliver a platform to attract private investment, with a clear pipeline of investment opportunities which will stimulate confidence and help to encourage the flow of private capital.



## 2. ENSURE EFFICIENT, EQUITABLE AND COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT

### CCF Key Priorities:

- Minimum local content requirement for all commonwealth government contracts
- Fair and sustainable indigenous procurement policy reform
- Fair and equitable payment terms and risk allocation on all government contracts

To ensure the Australian community realises the full potential of taxpayer funded infrastructure the Commonwealth Government should reform its procurement policies.

Reform in this area of policy will position the Commonwealth to deliver significant benefits to communities particularly in rural, regional and remote Australia. These include:

- Higher local employment opportunities;
- Increased and upskilled local workforce; and
- Higher economic growth in local communities.



## 3. REFORM SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

### CCF Key Priorities:

- Creating a sustainable civil construction workforce and working with Government to set realistic and achievable employment thresholds.
- Increased government funding toward civil training and upskilling alongside fair and equitable distribution of training and upskilling funding to accredited service providers
- An ABS Review of ANZSCO Codes to include relevant occupations and skills

The Commonwealth has a once in a generation opportunity to create a sustainable civil construction workforce. This requires meaningful and creative reform of skill development and training approaches.



## 4. ENHANCE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

### CCF Key Priorities:

- Fair and equitable payment terms and risk allocation on all government contracts
- Retention of the Australian Building and Construction Commission
- Retention of the Registered Organisations Commission

The Commonwealth Government needs to set the standard when it comes to security of payments. By evidencing best practice Government will set a bar for industry greatly enhancing cashflow to enterprise across the value chain.

Construction is underpinned by its workforce. It is vital that workers and their employers are supported with industrial relations frameworks which set a sustainable and respectful standard for working practices.



## 5. PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE VIABILITY OF CIVIL INDUSTRY BUSINESSES

### CCF Key Priorities:

- National uniformity and consistency of legislation and heavy machine regulation across a variety of areas such as development applications and approvals, contract management and work health and safety
- Retention of the Fuel Tax Credit Scheme in its current form
- Ensure Government procurement contracts maximise participation of mid tier contractors with fair and equitable payment terms and risk allocation
- Engage with industry to remove red tape and inconsistent practices in Government contracts

It is essential that Australians are able to trust construction. Regulation builds that trust. As it stands inconsistent legislation and regulatory settings across many regulatory mechanisms such as development applications impedes effective regulation and stifles opportunity.

Inconsistency in legislation and heavy machine regulation makes it harder for industry to get on with the job. Inconsistent regulation can only deliver inconsistent outcomes. There should be a uniform national standard that sets a standard for best practice, protecting workers and removing red tape for industry.

Existing regulatory settings disproportionately impact small to medium enterprises.

Further, the threshold for Government contracts continues to price large sections of industry out of opportunities ultimately seeing value flow out of local communities.

"To deliver high-quality, world-class infrastructure for all Australians, we need to be smarter in our infrastructure decision-making, engage in forward thinking and planning, and prioritise strategic investments that seize the opportunities of change and act as catalysts for growth and prosperity."

Julieanne Alroe  
Chair Infrastructure Australia Foreword of Infrastructure Australia, Infrastructure Priority List 2019



# THE STATE OF INDUSTRY'S INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

PRIORITY		
1. Increase Infrastructure Investment and Funding	Score	75% <div></div>
	Quick Win	Immediately expand the value, and announce the scope, of productivity-enhancing public infrastructure investment and provision over the next 10 years with a focus on shovel-ready projects with proven productivity benefits.
2. Ensure Efficient, Equitable and Competitive Procurement	Score	60% <div></div>
	Quick Win	Commit to an immediate review of Commonwealth procurement policy aimed at introducing fair and equitable payment terms and risk allocation on all government contracts.
3. Reform Skill Development and Training	Score	55% <div></div>
	Quick Win	Announce an immediate review into funding levels and distribution arrangements to VET providers including registered training organisations to ensure Australia has a sufficient and sustainable civil construction industry workforce to meet the pipeline of infrastructure investment over the next 10 years.
4. Enhance Industrial Relations	Score	55% <div></div>
	Quick Win	Commit to a single national workplace relations system that delivers and fosters employment growth.
5. Protecting and Enhancing the Viability of Civil Industry Businesses	Score	60% <div></div>
	Quick Win	Establish a high level infrastructure 'red-tape reduction task force' to identify and alleviate unnecessary and high cost red tape in the civil construction industry.

## ABOUT US

**Civil Contractors Federation is the peak membership body representing Australia's civil construction industry and provides a unified voice to all levels of government.**

CCF members are responsible for the construction and maintenance of Australia's infrastructure, including roads, bridges, pipelines, drainage, ports and utilities. Members also play a vital role in the residential and commercial construction industry by providing earthmoving and land development services including the provision of power, water, communications and gas.

CCF is an organisation registered under the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009.



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