



**CIVIL CONTRACTORS
FEDERATION**

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CIVIL CONSTRUCTION SLOWDOWN 'ALARMS' PEAK BODY

Australia's peak voice for the civil construction industry, Civil Contractors Federation (CCF), has urged the Federal Government to take advantage of the Reserve Bank's most recent interest rate cut and use debt borrowing to reignite the slowing economy.

The Civil Contractors Federation (CCF) is extremely concerned with the latest ABS Engineering Construction Activity data which confirms the volume of civil construction activity across Australia fell to a two-year low during the March 2019 quarter, down a massive 12.2% compared to this time last year.

CCF CEO Chris Melham said – “every Australian should be concerned with the downturn in civil construction activity – our cities will continue to experience ongoing congestion, whilst rural and regional Australia continue to fall further behind on both economic and social grounds. The Australian economy needs an immediate and ongoing injection of ‘shovel ready’ productive infrastructure projects, followed by a 10-15 year pipeline, a position that the CCF has been pushing since 2016”, Melham said.

“Whilst the Federal Government's 10 year, \$100billion infrastructure investment program is welcome, its simply not enough. Successive Reserve Bank Governors have backed ‘debt funding’ to boost productivity growth through initiatives that encourage research and innovation, as well as investing in productivity-enhancing infrastructure.

“I would also urge the newly elected Labor Party Leader, the Hon Anthony Albanese, to engage with the Federal Government and adopt a bipartisan approach to Australia's Infrastructure Investment Program. Both parties ran a very high profile infrastructure agenda throughout the Federal election campaign and have a responsibility to deliver on their election promises to all Australians – now is the time to walk to walk.

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About the Civil Contractors Federation

The Civil Contractors Federation (CCF) is the peak employer body representing over 2,000 companies engaged in civil construction in every jurisdiction of Australia. CCF Members are responsible for the construction and maintenance of Australia's infrastructure, including roads, bridges, pipelines, drainage, ports and utilities. CCF members also play a vital role in the residential and commercial building construction industry by providing earthmoving and land development services including the provision of power, water, communications and gas.

Constructing Australia's Infrastructure