



**CIVIL CONTRACTORS
FEDERATION**

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CCF REPEATS CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION ON INFRASTRUCTURE

Australia's peak voice for the civil construction sector has repeated its call for urgent action to stimulate the Australian economy by increasing the infrastructure spend in the wake of the 2019 *Australian Infrastructure Audit* released by *Infrastructure Australia*.

The 2019 Audit covers transport, energy, water, telecommunications, and for the first time social infrastructure, and looks at the major challenges and opportunities facing Australia's infrastructure over the next 15 years and beyond.

And according to the March 2019 ABS survey 'measured engineering construction' has fallen across Australia to a two-year low, down a massive 12.2% compared to the same time last year.

The Civil Contractors Federation (CCF) has also endorsed the view of Infrastructure Australia Chair, Julieanne Alroe that "a new wave of investment and reform is needed to ensure Australia's infrastructure continues to support our quality of life and economic productivity over the next 15 years".

The CCF is urging the Federal Government to adopt the following 3-point plan as a matter of urgency:

1. With interest rates at historical lows, utilize debt funding to roll out an increased volume of productive infrastructure projects over the next 10-15 years as an effective means to stimulate the economy;
2. Launch and fund a nationwide skills campaign and training agenda that helps to retain, upskill, and attract skilled workers into the sector;
3. Cut red tape on the 'extractive sector' to ensure a sufficient supply of raw materials needed to build our roads, rail and civil infrastructure.

CCF CEO Chris Melham said – "every Australian should be concerned with the audit report handed down by Infrastructure Australia – as our population edges toward 30 million people our cities will experience worsening congestion, whilst rural and regional Australia will 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.

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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