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Federal Government Infrastructure Stimulus Set to Boost Australia's Economic Recovery

Australia's peak voice for the civil infrastructure sector has welcomed the Federal Government's additional \$15.2 billion infrastructure stimulus announced in tonight's budget with the focus now turning to State and Territory Governments and their procurement agencies who are responsible for the delivery of infrastructure projects to market.

Chief Executive Officer of Civil Contractors Federation National, Chris Melham said the Federal Government's additional \$15.2 billion investment in infrastructure reaffirmed the Government's commitment to an infrastructure led recovery and acknowledged and congratulated the Hon. Michael McCormack MP (*Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development*) and the Hon. Paul Fletcher MP (*Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts*).

"The Federal Government's stimulus announcement aligns with CCF National's recently released report '[Rebuilding Australia – A Plan for a Civil Infrastructure Led Recovery](#)' which highlights the economic benefits of a significant and sustained increase in infrastructure spending by all levels of government", Melham said.

"Investing in civil infrastructure projects generates jobs, boosts business confidence and underpins economic growth. A CCF National [survey](#) of its civil construction company members found that a majority of them have the capacity to tender for additional work and they would employ more workers should additional project funding be provided to them", Melham said.

"The ability of the Australian economy to maximise the economic benefit from tonight's infrastructure stimulus in the short to medium term is now largely dependent upon state and territory government's meeting Federal Government project milestones", Melham said.

"The Deputy Prime Minister said in Parliament House today during question time that: *"the Federal Government pays states and territories upon the completion of milestones ...if they do not meet the project milestones the cheque does not get paid...the unspent money however still goes into the overall budget for infrastructure...and it does get spent upon the completion of that job"* (Deputy Prime Minister, 11 May 2021).

Given the comments by the Deputy Prime Minister, CCF National is calling on State and Territory Governments to ensure their procurement frameworks and policies are structured in a manner that ensures projects are delivered to market in a more streamlined and timely manner, ensures a greater number of bids are received from tier 2 & 3 head contractors, and to ensure they have appropriately qualified staff to manage the tender process" he concluded.

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