



**CIVIL CONTRACTORS
FEDERATION**

CCF NATIONAL OFFICE

ABN 41 639 349 350

Unit 13, Level 3, Engineering House

11 National Circuit

Barton ACT 2600

E ccfnat@civilcontractors.com

www.civilcontractors.com

Media Release – For immediate release

Friday 18 March 2022

NEW INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA REPORT SHOWS REGIONS AT RISK OF BEING LEFT BEHIND

Australia's peak voice for the civil infrastructure sector, Civil Contractors Federation National (CCF) has welcomed Infrastructure's Australia new report, [Regional Strengths and Infrastructure Gaps](#) describing it as a wake-up call to governments to ensure they prioritise the infrastructure needs of regional Australians.

"CCF welcomes Infrastructure Australia's report on the strengths and gaps faced by regional Australians, which is timely given the challenges and opportunities regional communities face from the impact of COVID-19," said Chris Melham, Chief Executive Officer, Civil Contractors Federation National.

"The report rightly points out that the ability of regional Australia to take advantage of the opportunities available to them depends on their ability to access robust, reliable and resilient infrastructure networks.

"The capacity, connectivity and quality of infrastructure throughout our regions is integral to their future growth and innovation, and this report serves as an important blueprint for industry and governments to ensure spending and policy reforms are targeted to achieve maximum benefits," he said.

Mr Melham said *Regional Strengths and Infrastructure Gaps* underscores CCF's key message to the Federal Government in the lead up to the 2022-2023 Budget that their needs to be an equitable spread of the Commonwealth's infrastructure investment program.

"CCF's 2022/2023 [pre-budget submission](#) encourages a greater infrastructure investment commitment to rural and regional Australia, and to ensure this commitment is spread evenly across jurisdictions," he said.

"The 2022-2023 budget provides an important opportunity for the Federal Government to address the infrastructure service quality gaps in regional and remote areas as evidenced by this report.

"This is particularly important in the context of population growth in our regions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, with Infrastructure Australia estimating a 200% increase in net migration from capital cities to regional areas due to COVID-19.

"This is putting an increasing strain on infrastructure services in non-metropolitan areas and resulting in gaps in service delivery between major cities and our regional areas, which act as a major barrier to economic growth and prosperity in our regions.

"CCF believes a greater budgetary commitment is required to improve infrastructure services in rural and regional areas and to generate employment opportunities, build resilience and improve quality of life.

"Without such a commitment, those Australians living in rural and regional areas risk being left behind," he said.

Contact: Duncan Sheppard, CCF National Senior Policy and Communications Advisor, 0438 330 039

The Civil Contractors Federation is the peak national employer representative body for the Australian civil construction industry comprising over 1,900 civil construction companies across the construction supply chain.