



NEW 20 YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY “A WORK IN PROGRESS FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA” - CCF

The Civil Contractors Federation South Australia (CCF SA) says that Infrastructure SA’s (ISA) just released 20 Year Infrastructure Strategy provides a good summary of where SA finds itself in 2020 and where government attention is required going forward.

The CCF (SA) noted however, its surprise that a much anticipated comprehensive list of prioritised infrastructure projects extending over 20 years to bolster the State’s economy and facilitate jobs growth – was not included in the Strategy’s key outcomes.

Civil Contractors Federation Chief Executive, Mr Phil Sutherland, said today that without diminishing the value of the Strategy, it was not the “blueprint” industry was expecting.

“While identifying key themes and principles to improve planning and delivery across all infrastructure sectors in South Australia are important to the Strategy, it was not unrealistic to expect that projects, close to shovel ready, would be identified, either in the Strategy or the separate annual Capital Intentions Statement,” Mr Sutherland said.

“Our members were hoping for a Strategy that would inform, in some detail, their company planning for the future. Concepts, themes and the identification of possible future projects, have their place, but our members have to base decisions on solid information, available today.

“In anticipating the Strategy would come up with a prioritised list of projects, the CCF (SA) believed some of these would inform Infrastructure Australia’s recommendations to the Commonwealth Government for funding. Currently, there are no projects on the Infrastructure Australia priority list for SA.

“We note that bodies like Infrastructure Australia publish lists of recommended and prioritised projects. We suspect that the much needed pipeline of advanced projects for SA remains a work in progress.

“Putting our immediate concerns about the absence of a construction-ready pipeline of projects to one side, the Strategy does bring together into one document, all of the various concepts and ideas that if implemented, would be of benefit to our State. We look forward to working with the Government to bring these to fruition as soon as possible.

“Critically, the Strategy does echo the calls from the CCF (SA) to accelerate State and local government construction and maintenance projects to the construction phase, to support the economy during the health emergency currently playing out.

“The Strategy affirms the CCF (SA) position that as a result of underinvestment, 75% of the State’s roads are in poor condition with a resultant maintenance backlog estimated at \$780 million, expected to increase to \$1.2 billion by 2024.”

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The Federation said it welcomed the special mention by ISA in the Strategy of the importance of SA's regions.

"We have long considered our regions the jewel in the crown for SA. A much more deliberate and focussed government investment in our regions is required to trigger the enormous social and economic benefits possible," Mr Sutherland said.

"Given ISA's remit is limited to an advisory role, **we believe that a Co-ordinator General of Infrastructure be appointed** to ensure that the ISA advice is appropriately embraced across government, that there is always forward momentum, and an integrated approach to infrastructure planning and investment occurs.

"The CCF (SA) also welcomes and supports the commentary within the Strategy around:

- Public versus the private sector delivery of goods and or services
- The potential for much higher level of government investment to trigger private investment
- Alternative funding models for infrastructure
- Innovation seen during the health emergency could be a useful model for wholesale reforms that could improve economic efficiency and lift economic growth."

ABOUT THE CIVIL CONTRACTORS FEDERATION:

The Civil Contractors Federation - South Australia has 500 company members who in turn employ up to 30,000 South Australians. Members are involved in a variety of projects and activities (from small to very large) including the development and maintenance of civil or "horizontal" infrastructure such as roads, bridges, sewer, water and drainage pipelines, dams, wharves, commercial and housing land development. Members are also involved in the preparatory works for mining and other resource developments.

South Australia's prosperity is dependent upon functional, efficient and cost effective civil infrastructure. Healthy, well-functioning and productive countries depend on infrastructure that civil contractors construct and maintain.

Civil contractors play a prime role in working with both public sector and private sector clients in infrastructure delivery. This is the business of civil construction which has historically played a pivotal role in the growth and prosperity of South Australia.

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