

Wider Economic Benefits and Crossrail

As discussed at the Public Hearing on the 7 August 2014, Consult Australia is pleased to provide the Committee with further information regarding the use of the Wider Economic Benefits (WEB) model supporting the prioritisation and delivery of [Crossrail](#) in the UK.

The approach to the wider economic benefits (WEBs) of metro rail systems was developed by SKM Colin Buchanan (now Consult Australia member, Jacobs) for the Crossrail project in the United Kingdom, and has been noted as the key factor in securing Treasury approval for the £15.9bn required to deliver this major new railway link under central London.

For an overview of the WEB Model, see: *Metro rail promotes urban growth and productivity*, October 2011 (first published in Sinclair Knight Merz's (SKM) *Achieve* magazine), at:

<http://www.railexpress.com.au/archive/2011/october/october-12th-2011/top-stories/metro-rail-promotes-urban-growth-and-productivity/?searchterm=None>

This approach is also summarised in the *Crossrail Business Case Update – Summary Report*, July 2011, see pages 11-12 at:

<http://74f85f59f39b887b696f-ab656259048fb93837ecc0ecbcf0c557.r23.cf3.rackcdn.com/assets/library/document/c/original/crossrailbusinesscasefinal300710.pdf>

We discussed how this approach had secured delivery of cross-rail and led to attracting additional private sector investment to the project at a local level. The high-level approach taken to funding Crossrail is set out [here](#). The private sector investment secured as part of local station developments by Canary Wharf Group (£150m) is described [here](#), and with Berkeley Group (estimated at £25m plus a further £50m development contribution) [here](#).

In addition to the above, we noted the Committee's specific interest in issues associated with risk management, contracting and procurement capability. We mentioned the [Centre of Procurement Excellence](#) as one mechanism to address these concerns, however we would also like to draw their attention to a more immediate solution that we did not mention, namely: the proposal arising out of the Standing Council on Law and Justice meeting in October 2013 to amend civil liability legislation in all Australian jurisdictions to achieve a uniform national position prohibiting contracting out of proportionate liability. Our detailed view on this issue can be read in our submission to the New South Wales Attorney-General's Department [here](#), and is also attached for reference by the Committee as they consider these issues in detail.

Do not hesitate to contact me if we can provide any further information on any of these issues or others arising as part of the Committee's deliberations.

We look forward to the outcomes of this Inquiry.

Regards and thanks

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