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22 April 2014

Mr Russell Chafer
Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
ic.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Chafer,

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING AND PROCUREMENT

The Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the House of Representatives Committee on Infrastructure and Communications inquiry into infrastructure planning and procurement.

About ASBEC

ASBEC is the peak body of key organisations committed to a sustainable built environment in Australia.

ASBEC's membership consists of industry and professional associations, non-government organisations, and government observers involved in the planning, design, delivery and operation of our built environment, who are concerned with the social and environmental impacts of this sector.

Submissions to Other Inquiries

ASBEC's interest in this inquiry relates principally to the role of infrastructure in supporting more productive, sustainable and liveable communities.

In the last twelve months we have made two submissions on this issue to the Productivity Commission, and one to the Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport on the *Infrastructure Australia Amendment Bill 2013*.

Our first submission to the Productivity Commission is attached as an appendix to this correspondence.

In each of these submissions, we have emphasised the importance of ensuring that infrastructure is strategically planned, developed, and funded according to clear guiding principles and appropriate governance principles.

ASBEC's policy platform argues for there to be:

- a coordinated and accountable approach to cities, with more innovative mechanisms for infrastructure financing and clear performance indicators; and
- a framework to improve the resilience of the built environment in the face of climate change.

We believe that these two principles are important guides for any future government infrastructure projects, and our current submission has been made with these policy objectives in mind.



Response to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference

In determining the Inquiry's key areas of investigation, ASBEC would like to direct the Committee's attention to the following reports:

- the Urban Coalition's [A New Deal for Australia](#), which highlights the need for better governance structures and more targeted funding arrangements in order to deliver the infrastructure needed to make Australian cities more liveable and sustainable; and
- the Development Assessment Forum's [Leading Practice Model for Development Assessment](#), which outlined ten reforms to improve development assessment processes, many of which have been adopted across the country. To see an assessment of current progress, visit [here](#).

The Urban Coalition, in particular, has proposed the establishment of an independent Australian Centre of Procurement Excellence, which would develop and implement best practice procurement and deliver value for money.

ASBEC promotes this initiative to the Committee for consideration, when investigating more effective infrastructure procurement practices.

If you would like to further discuss any issue raised in this submission, please contact Executive Officer Suzanne Toumbourou on (02) 8006-0828 or by email at eo@asbec.asn.au.

ASBEC commends the Productivity Commission for undertaking this inquiry, and looks forward to working together with the Commission to achieve better outcomes for all Australians.

Yours Sincerely

Tom Roper
President