

27 October 2014

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

To Whom It May Concern

Infrastructure Australia Amendment (Cost Benefit Analysis and Other Measures) Bill 2014

The Australian Sustainability Built Environment Council (ASBEC) welcomes the Senate Inquiry into the Infrastructure Australia Amendment (Cost Benefit Analysis and Other Measures) Bill 2014. ASBEC was pleased to provide input into the earlier consideration of the Infrastructure Australia Amendment Act and to see many of the issues raised during that process reflected in the changes supporting Infrastructure Australia's ongoing provision of independent, expert and transparent advice to government.

ASBEC is the peak body of key organisations committed to an efficient, productive and sustainable built environment in Australia. Membership consists of industry and professional associations, non-government organisations and government observers who are involved in the planning, design, delivery and operation of our built environment. Collectively, ASBEC's membership has direct reach to more 300,000 professionals in the built environment sector and represents an industry worth more than \$600 billion in value.

ASBEC has identified a number of areas associated with infrastructure project appraisal which we strongly recommend be adopted by Infrastructure Australia to ensure that the most productive and sustainable projects are prioritised, as detailed below:

- A whole-of-government approach to project appraisal, supporting consistency and best practice across the states and territories is critical. This project appraisal framework should be integrated with the existing work undertaken by Infrastructure Australia, and those relevant state and territory departments and agencies advising and overseeing infrastructure prioritisation, funding and delivery. Clear recommendations and next steps facilitating this whole-of-government approach should be included in the framework to support its implementation.
- Major infrastructure decision making must be informed and underpinned by a minimum 30 year socio-economic masterplan which takes into account optimising current asset stock, along with issues including demographic trends, economic shift to knowledge and service based economy, climate impacts, cumulative environmental impacts and costs, whole of life costs and wider economic benefits
- The business case for all infrastructure investments (brown and greenfield) must demonstrate shared value and value creation benefits across the social – economic – environmental triple bottom line and should be quantified where practicable.

We encourage the Government and Infrastructure Australia to work with industry to identify and achieve best practice in infrastructure identification and delivery.

Yours Sincerely

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