



Building link between infrastructure and productivity growth

Engineers Australia will appear before the House Infrastructure and Communications Committee at a public hearing on Wednesday 25 June 2014.

In its submission to the Inquiry, Engineers Australia states that infrastructure projects are key drivers of productivity growth. It is suggested that while significant investment in infrastructure has occurred in Australia, the majority of this investment has been in support of the resources sector. Engineers Australia also considers that there is a need to lower the cost and time incurred by private sector participants in making infrastructure bids through the provision of more consolidated information to streamline the process.

The submission provides perspectives from the engineering profession in relation to public sector procurement. In the first instance, according to Engineers Australia, outsourcing has meant that the public sector has lost engineering expertise leading to significant compromises in how it manages contracts, staff and other engineering-related issues. Secondly, the intermittent nature of public sector infrastructure projects has seen skilled engineers leave the profession in favour of secure employment in other fields.

Committee Chairman Jane Prentice MP said prior to the hearing that the need to address issues within the infrastructure bid process has been a significant theme emerging from evidence to the inquiry.

“The need to reduce both the cost and time incurred by private sector participants in the bid process is an important determinant in ensuring value for money for governments and also healthy competition between those making bids for infrastructure development” she said.

Details of the hearing are as follows:

Date: Wednesday 25 June 2014
Time: 8.15am – 9.00am
Place: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House CANBERRA

Further information on the inquiry, including the full terms of reference and how to prepare a submission can be obtained from the Committee’s website at www.apph.gov.au/ic or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 2352.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chairman, (07) 3378 1599 or (02) 6277 4426

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2352, email ic.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee’s webpage at www.apph.gov.au/ic