



**PRESS RELEASE:**

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**NAWIC JOINS 14 PEAK INDUSTRY BODIES CALLING FOR INQUIRY INTO PROCUREMENT PRACTICES FOR GOVERNMENT-FUNDED INFRASTRUCTURE**

NAWIC this week has proudly added its voice to a group of 14 peak industry bodies who have written a joint letter calling for urgent action on productivity-enhancing policies and calling for an inquiry into procurement practices for government-funded infrastructure.

In the letter to Liberal MP John Alexander, the chair of the House of Representatives standing committee on infrastructure, transport and cities, the 14 signatories said the industry “faces several structural challenges that are threatening its very sustainability”.

“Sectors within the infrastructure industry consistently rank as having some of the highest rates of insolvencies in Australia, and productivity growth over the last 30 years trails that of other significant industries by 25 per cent,” they said in the letter.

“In parts of the industry, women make up only 12 per cent of the workforce and workers are six times more likely to die from suicide than a workplace incident. For these, and other reasons, the industry is struggling to attract and retain sufficient people.”

Lead by Australian Constructors Association and including The Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors, Roads Australia and the Australian Railway Association, the group represents the majority of organisations involved in delivering the Commonwealth Government’s record \$110 billion investment in infrastructure projects across the nation.

NAWIC National Chair, Kristine Scheul says, “NAWIC has always been vocal about government assisting with the reform that is required in the construction industry to ensure that it is an industry where women are recognised as equal participants. Governments have the ability to require higher cultural standards of those companies with whom they do business and that will have an impact on attracting more women into the industry .”

The letter then concludes, “Whilst a number of signatories to this letter will be making detailed submissions to the Inquiry, with respect to the key issues in the Terms of Reference that impact on the businesses they represent, we all agree on the urgent need for reforms that drive an improved industry culture, create increased capacity/capability, and ensure that project commercial frameworks are equitable and align the interests of all parties.”

In building on the momentum surrounding the release of the letter, an article has been published in The Australian on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

To read the letter in full please [click here](#).

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