



Flexible infrastructure needed for Australia's future growth – report

Posted on November 21, 2018 by **Robbie Parkes**

To meet the demands of a growing population, Australia needs smarter and more flexible infrastructure, according to a new report prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit.



The *Flexible Cities. The Future of Australian Infrastructure* report, presented at the University of Technology Sydney and commissioned by infrastructure group **Salini Impregilo**, highlighted the importance of leaders, institutions and businesses understanding the importance of growth initiatives.

The report adds that Australia is well placed to tackle the challenges of a rapidly growing population and could potentially be a model for other countries when it comes to smart infrastructure.

Findings from the report have been based on research and interviews with Australian infrastructure experts and stakeholders across the private and public sector.

It also highlights how Australia's financing and procurement practices attract international investors and builders to support infrastructure goals.

"The challenges that come with rapid urban growth are not easily addressed. Without strong partnerships and investment in infrastructure, as well as a willingness to take calculated risks on uncertain future scenarios, cities will struggle to provide for their citizens," the report said.

"Australia's cities are, however, not shying away from these challenges. Overall, the country has shown an enormous willingness to innovate, collaborate, and learn from global leaders.

"The design, construction and maintenance of infrastructure projects are increasingly driven by digital technologies, unlocking cost and time savings in building roads, railways and entire city centres," the report said.

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