

ROADS REVIEW

THIS MONTH, WE ASKED THE INDUSTRY DECISION-MAKERS, 'WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY?'



JON DAVIES, CEO AUSTRALIAN CONSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION

Reform recommendations like those in the Australian Infrastructure Plan must be implemented to significantly improve industry productivity. The Federal Government, as the bank roller of major projects, is positioned to coordinate and incentivise reform but it needs a mechanism to do this. The Future Australian Infrastructure Rating (FAIR) proposed by the Australian Constructors Association provides that mechanism. Building on the success of existing ratings schemes, FAIR proposes to rate government funded projects on how well they performed against key reform areas including improved productivity. If implemented, \$15 billion in productivity gains could be achieved every year and the fundamental issues threatening the sustainability of the industry can be finally addressed.



GRANT WARNER, CEO, AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS (AIQS)

Firstly, lack of measurement of quantities. A bill of quantities, prepared by a Certified Quantity Surveyor engaged by the asset owner, acts as a quality check on the design and avoids the time and cost of contractors and subcontractors measuring their own quantities. Secondly, with no standard approach to work-breakdown structures, it is difficult to benchmark costs and confirm value for money. Thirdly, cost of bidding. A more efficient bidding process between the asset owner and the contractor should be standardised to minimise cost pressures and risk. Lastly, industry should design to a cost, not cost a design.



DEEPAK MADAN, CHIEF MARKETING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, SRIPATH ASIA-PACIFIC.

A key challenge facing the roads and infrastructure industry is the declining quality of bitumen from around the world. Increasingly, refineries attempt to utilise the most economical crude slates, maximize production of higher-value fractions, and comply with stringent sulphur regulations. This results in high variability and inconsistency and declining quality of bitumen, a by-product of the refining process. From a productivity perspective, this manifests as a need to actively monitor and manage the grade, viscosity, penetration and polymer compatibility in bitumen. Sripath offers a range of easy-to-use, innovative products that help restore the functional properties of bitumen and promote recycling of waste streams, resulting in improved quality, consistency and performance.

If you or someone at your organisation is an industry leader and would like to be a part of this monthly column in 2022, please get in touch with Editor, Mike Wheeler: mike.wheeler@primecreative.com.au