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INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIPS AUSTRALIA
BUILDING AUSTRALIA TOGETHER

MEDIA RELEASE

****EMBARGOED UNTIL 12.01 AEST SEPTEMBER 7, 2012****

GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS MEET TO SOLVE PRODUCTIVITY, INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES

Senior public and private sector leaders will meet at Infrastructure Partnerships Australia's annual conference in Melbourne today to discuss solutions to Australia's growing infrastructure backlog.

"Australia needs to bite the bullet on reform if we are going to solve our productivity and infrastructure challenges," said IPA Chief Executive, Brendan Lyon.

"The reason we are not seeing a deeper, wider programme of infrastructure projects being delivered is because Australia's governments do not have the funding capacity to support the required investment.

"Today's meeting will see some of the nation's most senior business, public sector and political leaders meet to address the challenges that are eroding the economic competitiveness of Australia's businesses and the quality and cost of living for households.

"In the last few years, Australia has tumbled from the fifth most competitive economy in the world to the 20th.

"The World Economic Forum singles out the quality, capacity and reach of economic infrastructure as a key contributor to the decline and a major impediment to doing business in this country.

"Getting better infrastructure will require change, and today's conference is about beginning an informed national discussion about the options, trade-offs and challenges that must be confronted to reverse the productivity slide.

"Privatising public assets, much greater private investment and reforms to increase government revenue and cut costs will all form part of the solution.

"These issues are politically complex and require strong political will, but every Australian can see that the status quo approach is failing and that change is now required.

"We hope that today's gathering will ignite a real, rational and reasoned public debate about how Australia can solve its infrastructure and productivity challenges."
<ENDS>

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia's annual *Partnerships* conference is an invitation-only gathering that will bring together 250 of Australia's most senior public and private sector chief executives. A programme of speakers is enclosed overleaf.

Date: Friday, September 7
Time: 9am to 3pm
Venue: Grand Hyatt, Melbourne

Media are welcome to attend. Please contact Michael Bruce, michael.bruce@infrastructure.org.au or 0438 380 464.

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia is a national forum, comprising public & private sector CEO Members, advocating the public policy interests of Australia's Infrastructure Industry.

Partnerships 2012

INFRASTRUCTURE & INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIPS AUSTRALIA

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GRAND HYATT MELBOURNE – Friday 7 September 2012

TIME	SESSION DETAILS	SPEAKERS
8.30am – 9.00am	REGISTRATION & ARRIVAL REFRESHMENTS	
9.00am-10.40am	CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME	The Hon Mark Birrell Chairman | Infrastructure Partnerships Australia
	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	Ted Baillieu MLA Premier of Victoria
	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	Sir Rod Eddington AO Chairman | Infrastructure Australia
	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	Scott Charlton Chief Executive Officer | Transurban Limited
	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	The Hon Warren Truss MP Leader of the Nationals Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	Richard McIndoe Managing Director | TRUenergy
10.40am – 11.15am	MORNING TEA	
11.15am – 12.45pm	PANEL DISCUSSION EMINENT PERSONS	Chair: The Hon Mark Birrell Chairman | Infrastructure Partnerships Australia Panelists: The Hon Nick Greiner AC Chairman | Infrastructure NSW Nicholas Moore Chief Executive Officer | Macquarie Group Limited Mark Romoff President and Chief Executive Officer, The Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships James Stewart OBE Chairman, Global Infrastructure | KPMG
	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	The Hon Anthony Albanese MP Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	Jim Miller Head of Infrastructure, Utilities & Renewables, Australia & NZ Macquarie Capital

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GRAND HYATT MELBOURNE – Friday 7 September 2012

TIME	SESSION DETAILS	SPEAKERS
12.45pm - 3.00pm	INDUSTRY LEADERS' LUNCHEON – Programme as below	
	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	Graham Bradley Deputy President | Business Council of Australia
	PANEL DISCUSSION	Chair: Brendan Lyon Chief Executive Officer | Infrastructure Partnerships Australia Panelists: Terry Moran AC Chairman | Barangaroo Delivery Authority Graeme Samuel AC Managing Director | Greenhill Caliburn Dr Kerry Schott