

# ***Communiqué***

## **CANBERRA**

### **THURSDAY, 28 AUGUST 2014**

A special meeting of the Transport and Infrastructure Council (the Council) was held in Canberra today to discuss the reforms and recommendations contained in the Productivity Commission's (PC) *Inquiry into Public Infrastructure* (the Inquiry) tabled in the Federal Parliament on 14 July 2014.

This wide ranging Inquiry examined the way Australian governments fund and deliver major infrastructure, including identification of opportunities to reduce barriers to additional private sector investment and options to reduce project costs.

The PC identifies a range of reforms that could improve the delivery of public infrastructure by governments, particularly in regards to the selection, prioritisation and governance of public infrastructure projects.

The Council notes the PC's recommendation that the Australian, state, territory and local governments pursue reforms relating to implementing best practice or improved processes within each jurisdiction. The Council recognises that work is already underway across jurisdictions that will address many of the issues raised by the PC.

The Council broadly agrees with the PC's findings in relation to the need for greater transparency in infrastructure funding, procurement and delivery; and the need for better project selection, tendering processes, benchmarking and evaluation to reduce costs and get better value for money.

In line with the PC's findings, the Council also recognises that the early identification of major infrastructure priorities and implementation of long-term planning activities will help reduce project costs, improve network planning and provide additional confidence to private sector investors, the construction industry and the community.

Given the wide reaching scope of the Inquiry findings, the Council is committed to continuing to work together to identify future and ongoing reforms arising from the Inquiry in order to drive best practice in Australia's infrastructure investment and delivery.



## **PARTICIPATING MEMBERS**

**The Hon Jamie Briggs MP**

Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development (Commonwealth)

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**The Hon Duncan Gay MLC**

Minister for Roads and Freight (New South Wales)

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**The Hon Terry Mulder MP**

Minister for Roads, Minister for Public Transport (Victoria)

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**The Hon Scott Emerson MP**

Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Queensland)

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**The Hon Dean Nalder MLA**

Minister for Transport (Western Australia)

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**Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis**

President (Australian Local Government Association)

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The following members were represented by officials:

**The Hon Stephen Mullighan MP**

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure (South Australia)

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**The Hon Rene Hidding MP**

Minister for Infrastructure (Tasmania)

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**The Hon Peter Styles MLA**

Minister for Transport (Northern Territory)

