

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

9 September 2016

TOP GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS LEADERS SAY BUSINESS AS USUAL CAN ONLY MEAN MORE OF THE SAME

Australia's most senior political, public sector and business leaders will gather in Melbourne today to distil the national reforms needed to fix infrastructure; at [Infrastructure Partnerships Australia's](#) annual *Partnerships* infrastructure leaders' dialogue.

"This is the most senior annual gathering of infrastructure leaders and we expect the proceedings to focus on moving from infrastructure debates, to actual infrastructure delivery," said IPA Chief Executive Brendan Lyon.

"The major problem facing infrastructure is a raw shortage of government funding to pay for what's needed.

"Big steps on infrastructure will need big reforms, like asset recycling and major changes to the way infrastructure is owned, priced and regulated.

"We know from history and from now that reform and change are not easy so it's very welcome that the meeting will see remarks from heroic reformers like David Gonski and Fred Hilmer, who can inject some optimism back into the political and economic debates.

"Standard & Poor's will also provide a detailed analysis of the raw funding constraint on public budgets, highlighting again that no change will equal no infrastructure.

"Scott Charlton will also be releasing landmark research done by Transurban, which has studied how direct pricing can close the gap between the transport infrastructure we need and what we have.

"Infrastructure problems like high utility prices and a commute that gets longer each year will not fix themselves, business as usual means more of the same.

"This meeting of leaders will hear real contributions about real changes that would deliver actual infrastructure solutions for the economy and the community.

"Infrastructure is a dinner table discussion because the community experiences a lengthening journey to work and social and community infrastructure that's not maintained or cannot be rolled out as fast as population growth demands.

"With notable political leaders Tim Pallas, Treasurer of Victoria, and a keynote address from Darren Chester, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, this leaders' meeting is important because it provides a platform to drive better solutions to Australia's infrastructure challenges."

IPA Chief Executive Brendan Lyon is available for interview. Media are also welcome to attend the event.

Date: Friday 9 September 2016

Time: 8:30am to 3:30pm

Venue: The Crown, 8 Whiteman St, Southbank Victoria 3006

Please contact Sarah Dagg, Sarah.Dagg@infrastructure.org.au or 0438 380 464 to register.

[A programme of speakers is attached.](#)