

MEDIA RELEASE

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WEATHERILL NEEDS TO STEP IN ON TROUBLED NRAH

South Australia's inability to complete the New Royal Adelaide Hospital is a national embarrassment - and needs to be fixed immediately and in good faith, said Infrastructure Partnerships Australia.

"The Premier needs to step in and take responsibility for the project and get experienced public servants and advisors in, to get NRAH finished and open", said Brendan Lyon, IPA's Chief Executive.

"South Australia badly needs investment in new industries and new jobs, but the NRAH debacle will have the opposite effect if it's not resolved very quickly.

"SA has no experience of social infrastructure projects of NRAH's scale and complexity and given the failure to resolve the way forward, it's time to get health infrastructure experts in from elsewhere.

"South Australia bought a large, complex hospital so it's normal to have delivery problems, but it's absolutely abnormal to see so little urgency on getting the NRAH open.

"The SA Government cannot just sit back and make idle comments about patient safety, it needs to get in the room and resolve the concerns and get the project open.

"NRAH was always a big project for South Australia, but it's now turning into a major embarrassment, because the state has been unable to reach a good faith agreement about the cure plan and has shown little commitment to do so.

"SA decided on NRAH when it was expecting Olympic Dam and continued it, expecting that the Nuclear Royal Commission would provide an alternative economic driver for the state government.

“There is some measure of concern among infrastructure investors that SA is moving slowly because it now wants to renegotiate the whole contract.

“This would trash SA’s reputation and would do further harm to Australia’s reputation, right when the country needs more investment and more infrastructure, not less.

“Australian and international banks and superannuation funds have put \$2.8 billion into South Australia’s hospital, so SA can ill-afford to trash its reputation on this project.

“The shenanigans on NRAH are up in red lights in bank and super fund investment committees around the country and the Premier needs to step in and fix it.”

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