



STATEMENT ON NSW CONSTRUCTION SECTOR PAUSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 JULY 2021

While the pause on construction in NSW is disappointing, the industry will work with Government to ensure construction can safely and swiftly resume as soon as conditions allow, said Infrastructure Partnerships Australia Chief Executive, Adrian Dwyer.

“The infrastructure sector respects the NSW Government’s decision and understands why the Cabinet felt it was a necessary step to minimise movements in the community.

“The industry has been highly responsive to the evolving health advice and respects the decision to pause construction as a means of reducing transmission of this highly-infectious Delta strain.

“It should be noted the decision has been made not because construction is considered unsafe, but to limit movement of people.

“Construction is not an abstract exercise, its real people building real things, it’s everyday stimulus that keeps the economy working – and that means we must work collectively to re-open as swiftly as possible.

“As the government considers ways to reopen construction, it needs to acknowledge the critical distinction between large-scale heavily controlled construction sites and other environments. In short, construction should be the first cab off the rank.

“Large-scale civil construction sites have the most sophisticated health and safety controls and site entry mechanisms of virtually any workplace in the country.

“It is harder to get onto and move around a large-scale construction site than it is to get into a hospital.

“Movement in and around large-scale civil construction sites is heavily controlled and there are strong systems in place to ensure the separation of work crews, sub-contractors, and suppliers on site.

“It is vital that the lockdown on large-scale civil construction does not extend beyond what is absolutely necessary to minimise community transmission,” said Mr Dwyer.

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia is the nation’s infrastructure think tank, providing independent policy research focused on excellence in social and economic infrastructure.

MEDIA CONTACT: Michael Player **T** 0424 698 189

