



## **SPECTRE OF PROJECT CANCELLATIONS IS DANGEROUS, RISKS JEOPARDISING VICTORIA'S WORLD CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE REPUTATION**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 17 AUGUST 2022**

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia has today expressed its extreme concern with the Victorian Opposition's proposed cancellation of the Suburban Rail Loop project.

"Victoria had to work hard to shed the baggage of ripping up the East West Link contract, but today's speculation on the Suburban Rail Loop risks the reemergence of the big dollars, no diggers approach to infrastructure," said Infrastructure Partnerships Australia Chief Executive Adrian Dwyer.

"Matthew Guy was on the right side of history when he railed against the cancellation of the East West Link contract, this time he's picked up the wrong play book.

"This is infrastructure policy in Dire Straits, it's Money for Nothing.

"Certainty is crucial in infrastructure, with major projects spanning a decade, and programmes often multiple decades, we can't afford to signal to global markets that every election will see the map re-drawn.

"International bidders are lining up for major infrastructure bids in Australia at this very moment, it could be incredibly damaging to send a signal to board rooms in Madrid and Rome and Kuala Lumpur that the Victorian infrastructure pipeline is a moving feast.

"Cancelling the existing SRL contracts now will be double the cost of cancelling the East West Link and deliver exactly the same amount of infrastructure – zero.

"Matthew Guy is right to talk about the need to keep investing in our health system – but with good policy settings, social infrastructure and transport infrastructure investment don't need to be mutually exclusive," 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.

**INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIPS AUSTRALIA MEDIA CONTACT: Brendan Pearce 0435 032 801**

