



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**11 March 2024**

### **RESPONSE TO THE INTERIM FINDINGS OF THE INDEPENDENT TOLL REVIEW IN NSW**

Industry think tank Infrastructure Partnerships Australia has responded to the interim findings of the NSW Independent Toll Review released today.

“Today’s report has a spectrum of suggestions ranging from sensible, to muddled through to foolhardy. Any discussion of unilaterally legislating over existing contracts is reckless and should be ruled out,” says Adrian Dwyer, Chief Executive of Infrastructure Partnerships Australia.

“It is important to make crystal clear that without tolling, many of the nation’s most significant and valuable road corridors simply could not have been built. To put it plainly, the road exists because the toll exists.

“Now that the network is substantially built out, we have an opportunity to pivot to a system that better serves the interests of future users and taxpayers.

“The report did well at reviewing the symptoms and diagnosing the disease, but poorly on recommending the treatment.

“Some of the suggestions in today’s report risk creating a trust deficit at a time of peaking infrastructure demand and increasing fiscal constraint.

“The NSW Government has been absolutely right to reiterate that this report is independent and there is much work required to make it real world, actionable policy.

“NSW needs to engage billions of dollars of private capital to deliver the energy transition.

“Australia has a hard won reputation of being a place where contracts matter. The suggestion that legislation can be unilaterally imposed over the top is reckless and should be treated as such.

“The threat of tearing up contracts sets a dangerous precedent – one we can’t afford when we need to roll out billions to support the energy transition.

“A sure-fire way to make investors pause over the dotted line is to theatrically rip up one contract as we ask them to sign another.”

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

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