INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIPS AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIPS AUSTRALIA RESPONDS TO NSW GOVERNMENT'S TOLL PACKAGE

The infrastructure sector will welcome today's announcement that NSW continues to be a place where contracts matter, according to industry think tank Infrastructure Partnerships Australia.

"From a public policy perspective, today's package is a mixed bag – some good, some bad and some inevitable. All in, the outcome is ultimately fairly benign," said Adrian Dwyer, Infrastructure Partnerships Australia Chief Executive Officer.

"Having been broken into jail by the Fels Review's outrageous flirtations with sovereign risk, the NSW Government has valiantly spent two years breaking back out."

"That matters, because 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."

"To its credit, the NSW Government has pursued some sensible policy positions: the reforms to digitalise toll notices, two-way tolling on the Eastern Distributor, and the nips and tucks to pricing are sound and soundly delivered."

"After going around the world and back again, grown-up negotiations have landed in a fairly sensible position, even if one wonders if the juice was worth the squeeze for taxpayers."

"What matters most today is the reaffirmation by the State Government that contracts matter, and that's a signal investors needed to hear," said Mr Dwyer.

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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