



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 23 June 2011

INFRASTRUCTURE NSW BILL PASSES PARLIAMENT

Legislation to establish Infrastructure NSW and take the politics out of infrastructure delivery in NSW has passed Parliament, Premier Barry O'Farrell said today.

"NSW has been crying out for a body like Infrastructure NSW – for the first time this State will have an independent body laying out a strategic direction for infrastructure delivery," Mr O'Farrell said.

"The establishment of Infrastructure NSW will take the politics out of infrastructure decision-making to get the right projects delivered on time and on budget.

"An expert Board will direct and oversee the preparation of a 20 year State Infrastructure Strategy for NSW, along with detailed 5 year Infrastructure plans that will set out the details of projects, sequencing and funding arrangements in the forward estimates of the NSW Budget.

"The Board will comprise five persons appointed from the private sector, along with the CEO of Infrastructure NSW, the Directors General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Trade, Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services, and Planning and Infrastructure and the Secretary of the Treasury.

"Infrastructure NSW will co-ordinate funding submissions to the Commonwealth, including Infrastructure Australia, to ensure NSW secures a fair share of contribution to vital infrastructure - a task which Labor failed miserably.

"We have already shown our intent to by appointing as independent Chair a can-do man with extensive business skill and experience in former Premier Nick Greiner.

"With the passing of this legislation we have moved on from the stench that has surrounded infrastructure delivery in NSW under 16 years of Labor.

"Never again will \$500 million of taxpayers' money be wasted on projects which don't stack up like the Rozelle Metro.

"We are ending the system which saw Labor announce no fewer than 12 rail projects in 16 years, and deliver just half of one line.

"Infrastructure NSW will ensure this State has the strategic infrastructure that grows the economy and allows people need to get on with their lives."