Drive progress and prosperity

Join us as a leadership partner in our Better Infrastructure Initiative
“Infrastructure governance reform is a global priority. The Better Infrastructure Initiative will help assist policymakers, investors and the community to invest and manage infrastructure more astutely for our future.”

Dr Ken Henry AC
Chairman and Non-Executive Director, National Australia Bank
Non-Executive Director, Australian Securities Exchange
Member, John Grill Centre Advisory Board
The challenge

The infrastructure task ahead of Australia and the world is enormous in scale and complexity. To rise to the challenge our partners know the best ideas come from diverse thought and experience.

In the next 15 years Australia’s major cities will grow by 46 percent – about 6 million people.* Growth on this scale is an unprecedented opportunity.

Based at the University of Sydney, the John Grill Centre is ideally placed to make a substantial contribution to fundamental governance reform of the sector. Transparent, evidence-based infrastructure planning and management can lift the economic and social wellbeing of citizens for generations to come.

The Better Infrastructure Initiative at the John Grill Centre for Project Leadership will help Australia reform its infrastructure practices to meet long-term challenges in a more responsible, collaborative and innovative way.

We will deploy the finest research talent at the University of Sydney and tap into our extensive international network to ensure the initiative contributes constructive, timely and incisive thinking to the infrastructure dialogue, both in Australia and around the world.

“Placing people and customers at the centre of all infrastructure governance will be our mark of distinction.”

*Source: Australian Government, Infrastructure Australia, Australian Infrastructure Audit, April 2015
Partnership for leaders

The initiative will deliver for the nation a unique partnership committed to supporting well grounded, scaled and feasible investments in infrastructure.

Our main priorities

Project economics and governance
- Accelerate institutional knowledge and practice for project selection and prioritisation.
- Develop frameworks to design, deliver and manage customer-led infrastructure.
- Disseminate global best practices for long-term, integrated infrastructure planning.

Funding and financing
- Develop a rigorous understanding of long-term investor objectives in infrastructure.
- Build an evidence base of risk allocation performance and implications for future transactions.
- Analyse comparative sectoral studies to unlock new funding sources.
Garry leads the Better Infrastructure Initiative. He brings his high-profile national and international reputation as an infrastructure and applied research leader to this role.

Garry has a strong track record of uniting a wide coalition of stakeholders to impact policy and enhance the role of community, business and academia in setting national agendas. His unique blend of public and private sector experience is vital in the stewardship of these knowledge partnerships and draws out the best that public and private sector stakeholders have to offer.

Garry is a member of the expert panel of the Infrastructure Transitions Research Consortia at Oxford University, and he sits on the Advisory Board for Liveable Cities at University College London. He is a Strategic Adviser to the Committee for Sydney and Auckland Transport.

Garry has gained a wealth of experience in integrated infrastructure planning and management from his role as chief executive of the SMART infrastructure facility at the University of Wollongong, and as founding executive director of Infrastructure Partnerships Australia.

“The John Grill Centre recognises the critical role it must play in preparing leaders as the nation readies itself for the 22nd century.”

Garry Bowditch
John Grill Centre for Project Leadership

Established in 2012, the John Grill Centre offers unique education and applied research to achieve greater social wellbeing and economic prosperity through projects.

Our education focus is on the leadership and governance of major projects to enable aspiring project leaders, senior executives and board members to create and realise value for their business-defining projects.

Through our applied research we are building partnerships with government, industry, academia and the community to address the infrastructure, energy and technology-enabled business transformation challenges that Australia faces.

The centre combines the experience of industry experts and leading academics, and draws on the multidisciplinary expertise of diverse faculties across the University of Sydney.

Advisory Board
Our board of experienced leaders from industry and government helps to develop the centre’s mission of education and research.

- John Grill AO
- The Hon Nick Greiner AC
- Dr Ken Henry AC
- Sir David Higgins
- Kevin McCann AM
- Dr Stuart McGill
- Jim McIlvenny
- John Mulcahy
- Bob Rollinson

John Grill, Chairman, WorleyParsons, Founder and Chair of the John Grill Centre advisory board
Our 10 key propositions

1. Better infrastructure requires better long-term planning.
2. All infrastructure interventions should be scaled, targeted and feasible.
3. The biggest impediment to better infrastructure is lack of transparency.
4. Infrastructure businesses are better than infrastructure projects.
5. Land-use planning and infrastructure planning are the same thing.
6. Good project selection is paramount; financing is secondary.
7. Infrastructure is primarily about service outcomes to people and business.
8. Risk is a catalyst for more innovation.
10. Leadership matters.
Take the next step
To express your organisation’s interest in partnering with the Better Infrastructure Initiative, please contact:

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