

Media release

Keep the Queensland infrastructure engine running

Thursday 12 November 2009

Queensland faces significant challenges in maintaining the momentum of infrastructure investment and keeping skills and capacity in the State as the economy picks up, said Bill Wild, Chief Operating Officer of Leighton Holdings.

Mr Wild will be the keynote speaker at the Committee for Economic Development (CEDA) Infrastructure Forum on Monday 23 November 2009.

Infrastructure investment in the past has followed the business cycle, easing off at precisely the time that it is most needed to stimulate the economy. That's one of the reasons we're always playing catch up in Australia, Mr Wild said.

Mr Wild said that to their credit the Queensland Government has put forward a 20 year South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program and have largely stuck to it.

"The challenge now is to retain the momentum of infrastructure investment as budgets get tighter at both the State and Federal level, and to resist the pressure to sacrifice investment in the economic and social infrastructure necessary for the long term growth of Queensland to meet short term budgetary pressures.

That's why the State needs to look at a range of procurement options, including traditional design and construct contracts, alliancing and privately funded infrastructure such as PPPs, said Mr Wild.

However he warned that for the PPP model to evolve there needs to be a re-balancing of the risk allocations between contractors who are doing much of the heavy lifting on these projects, financiers and Governments. All players needed to be reminded of the third P- partnership- if this model is to continue to evolve and contribute to the delivery of Queensland's infrastructure.

Also speaking at the forum will be: Barry Broe, Divisional Manager of Brisbane Infrastructure, Brisbane City Council; John McEvoy General Manager Portfolio & Investment Department of Transport & Main Roads; Dr Raymond Wilson Executive Director BrisConnections; Stan Stavros, Executive Director

KPMG; Michael Porter, Director of Research CEDA; and Mark Snape, Corporate General Manager, Infrastructure Finance & Investments, John Holland Group.

Tickets for the event can be purchased through CEDA, Queensland on 3229 9955.

Ends -

Working journalists are invited to attend the CEDA Infrastructure Forum.

Date: Monday 23 November 2009

Venue: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

Topic: CEDA Infrastructure Forum

Speakers: Bill Wild Chief Operating Officer, Leighton Holdings; Barry Broe, Divisional Manager of Brisbane Infrastructure, Brisbane City Council; John McEvoy General Manager Portfolio & Investment Department of Transport & Main Roads; Dr Raymond Wilson Executive Director BrisConnections; Stan Stavros, Executive Director KPMG; Michael Porter, Director of Research CEDA; and Mark Snape, Corporate General Manager, Infrastructure Finance & Investments, John Holland Group.

Time: 8.40am – 2.00pm

RSVP: to Cate Allen-Ducat at CEDA on 3229 9955 or cate.allen-ducat@ceda.com.au

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Robert Fuller | State Director, Queensland
CEDA – the Committee for Economic Development of Australia
Phone: 07 3229 9955
Mobile: 0458 098 208
Email: robert.fuller@ceda.com.au

Cate Allen-Ducat | Associate Director
CEDA – the Committee for Economic Development of Australia
Phone: 07 3229 9955
Mobile: 0412 170 653
Email: cate.allen-ducat@ceda.com.au

Richard Owen |Principal Consultant

Three Plus
Phone: 07 3503 5700
Mobile: 0412 869 937
Email: Richard@threeplus.com.au