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MEDIA RELEASE

Vision for 22nd Century NSW Infrastructure

NSW Infrastructure for the 22nd Century will be the focus of a high-level forum at NSW Parliament House this Friday, 9 May.

Instigated by the NSW Public Accounts Committee (PAC), the forum has attracted key academic, political and industry leaders to consider the challenges and possible solutions to developing NSW infrastructure into the 22nd Century.

PAC Chair, Jonathan O’Dea said, “Providing the right infrastructure is the bedrock of future growth and prosperity. We owe it to following generations to look beyond the next election cycle.”

“It is essential that we understand this challenge, which must be addressed now to secure our future long-term prosperity,” Mr O’Dea said.

The program includes an expert panel focussed on preparing for the future and an open discussion where parliamentarians will be able to question infrastructure experts.

Run with the help of the SMART Infrastructure Facility at the University of Wollongong, the forum is a chance for Members of Parliament to hear from a range of experts and to discuss vital issues.

CEO of the SMART Infrastructure Facility, Garry Bowditch said, “By planning and establishing a clear framework for infrastructure provision, we can focus early on delivering the services which will effectively and efficiently meet customer expectations.”

“Our task is to avoid the pitfalls of trying to predict the future of NSW and Sydney in the 22nd Century. Instead we have to ensure that the right building blocks for growth are in place so we can adapt and thrive in whatever circumstances the future throws at us,” Mr Bowditch said.

The *Planning NSW Infrastructure for the 22nd Century* forum will be held in the Macquarie Room, NSW Parliament House, Friday 9 May from 9.15am to 1.00pm.

Further information about SMART and the Green Paper ‘Infrastructure Imperatives for Australia’ can be obtained at: <http://smart.uow.edu.au/index.html>.

Further information about the forum can be obtained by visiting the Committee’s website at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/publicaccounts, or by contacting the Chair, Mr Jonathan O’Dea MP on 0418 241 500.

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