



Rob Stokes
Minister for Education

MEDIA RELEASE

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EXPERT OVERSIGHT FOR STATE'S BIGGEST EVER PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAM

The NSW Government's historic rebuild of public school infrastructure, a \$4.2 billion program benefitting current and future students, will be given expert oversight by eminent business people and education professionals.

Minister for Education Rob Stokes welcomed the first meeting this week of the School Infrastructure NSW Advisory Council, which includes individuals with experience in project delivery such as Robert Rust, Jim Betts, Julian Frecklington and Virginia Briggs.

"This group of eminent business people and others with outstanding expertise will help shape the education infrastructure needs of the next generation," Mr Stokes said.

"In the 2017/18 budget we announced the largest single commitment to education infrastructure ever made - over \$4.2 billion for new and upgraded schools over the next four years, including more than 1500 new classrooms which provide places for 32,000 students."

"At the same time we established Schools Infrastructure NSW, a centre of excellence for assets and their delivery in the Department of Education to drive the planning and construction of school facilities in response to changes around population growth, new ways of teaching and learning, and social change."

Mr Stokes said the new Council will provide advice to Schools Infrastructure NSW to ensure that responses to evolving education needs are innovative, sustainable and represent value for money.

"The Council will no doubt take a keen interest in the largest of our delivery projects including the new Arthur Phillip High School," Mr Stokes said.

"The Council's mix of private sector expertise and deep knowledge of planning, education and infrastructure provision will ensure that the task of upgrading existing schools to increase capacity, optimise resources and improve utilisation across schools in a local area will be achieved effectively."

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The School Infrastructure NSW Advisory Council

The Advisory Council is chaired by Robert Rust who has held senior positions in the delivery of infrastructure for the public and private sectors for more than 30 years, including as the inaugural Chief Executive of Health Infrastructure, the Chief Operating Officer of WestConnex Delivery Authority and with UGL, Alstom and Transfield.

Other members of the Council are:

- Jim Betts, who was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Infrastructure NSW in June 2013 following five years as the Secretary of the Victorian Department of Transport and four years as Victoria's Director of Public Transport at the Victorian Department of Infrastructure.
- Heather Nesbitt: the inaugural Social Commissioner for the Greater Sydney Commission with more than 30 years' experience in social sustainability, social housing, social infrastructure planning and social impact assessment.
- Virginia Briggs: a partner at Minter Ellison and a board member of the Committee for Sydney and the Property Council of Australia; she has provided legal advice on transactions including refinancing of NSW's Ports and the social housing PPP for the NSW Land and Housing Corporation.
- John Taylor has a unique understanding of the complexities of risk identification and management of major infrastructure projects. He has built two successful professional services organisations, both with portfolios of projects in excess of a billion dollars. John acts for clients in both the domestic and international market place and in the public and private sector.
- Julian Frecklington has over 17 years' experience in the public and private sector in the areas of strategy, business transformation, major projects, funds management, law and corporate leadership; he has worked for a number of Australia's leading property groups including Stockland and Multiplex Brookfield, and has held senior management positions in funds management, business development, and project delivery.
- Janet Davy has held senior positions within the NSW Department of Education, the federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, and has been Chief Executive of the ACT Department of Education and Training; she returned to NSW as Executive Director, Office of the Secretary in July 2012 and became Deputy Secretary, Strategy and Evaluation in 2015.
- Kathy Powzun is a Director Public Schools NSW and an experienced principal, instrumental in driving change through the planning and development of future educational learning spaces; she has led multiple schools infrastructure projects at various stages, involving extensive and diverse stakeholders.

As the Chief Executive of Schools Infrastructure NSW, Anthony Manning is an ex officio member of the Council. Prior to his current appointment in August 2017, Anthony worked with NSW Health Infrastructure from 2008 and played a key role in its executive team, responsible for growing this highly successful enterprise to more than \$1 billion per year currently.

