

9-1-2004

Conversations

Toni Campbell

Follow this and additional works at: <http://epublications.bond.edu.au/pib>

Recommended Citation

Campbell, Toni (2004) "Conversations," *Public Infrastructure Bulletin*: Vol. 1: Iss. 4, Article 1.
Available at: <http://epublications.bond.edu.au/pib/vol1/iss4/1>

This Editorial is brought to you by the Institute of Sustainable Development and Architecture at ePublications@bond. It has been accepted for inclusion in Public Infrastructure Bulletin by an authorized administrator of ePublications@bond. For more information, please contact [Bond University's Repository Coordinator](#).

EDITORIAL

CONVERSATIONS



Get them talking. It was one of our major aims when we established the Australian Centre for Public Infrastructure. Expertise in the field resides separately in academia, industry and government; what was needed was a way to bring it all together.

In the last two years we've succeeded in starting conversations that have resulted in just the sort of cross-fertilisation we hoped they would. We've also welcomed a new perspective to the Centre. Bill Shorten, National and Victorian Branch Secretary of the Australian Workers Union recently joined the Centre's industry advisory board.

Now we're starting to attract interest from overseas as well as within Australia. The recent study tour organised jointly by the Centre and Minter Ellison for a delegation from the Hong Kong government was a great success. We've also had interest in similar tours from as far away as South Africa and as close to home as Indonesia. The Centre's work is part of a growing international interest in Australian expertise in infrastructure, which Doug Jones of Clayton Utz describes in his article in this edition. Closer to home, Jim Ferguson of the Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance provides an update on moves to reform the way infrastructure is taxed. Michael Boswell describes an outsourcing project that involved four government agencies and how the inevitable tensions were resolved. And public policy analyst, Gary Sturgess, argues that Australia needs to adopt some widely accepted qualitative metrics to move away from using price as the prime determinant in the evaluation of bids. The recognition of Public Private Partnerships as an alternative procurement method has been shown with the establishment of the National PPP (working party/forum and Diana Joslin's article outlines aims of this group.

Managing infrastructure projects from conception to completion was the ambitious scope of the Master of Public Infrastructure (by Research) when we introduced it. Next year we'll be expanding the program to include a Master by Coursework. Watch this publication and our web site for details later in the year.

We have been surprised (and delighted) by the amount of interest shown in the Public Infrastructure Bulletin since its first edition. It too was designed to get everyone talking. Thus far we have been blessed with enthusiastic contributors, but we'd like to hear from our readers as well. If there is something you'd like to say about the state of public infrastructure in Australia, or observations about world wide trends, please let us know. The more discussion and debate that goes on, the more the Centre is fulfilling its aims.

This will be my last edition as Editor of the Bulletin as I am leaving Melbourne University Private to pursue a new career. Since its inception, I have had the pleasure of working with a large group of people who have energetically created the Centre, which has been enthusiastically led by Colin Duffield and Neil O'Keefe. I have been overwhelmed by the support and encouragement shown by government and the private sector to expand the knowledge base in the area of public private partnerships and public infrastructure in general. Michael Regan will take over the role of Editor – I am confident that the Centre will continue to be a leading edge player in the field of infrastructure.

Toni Campbell
Business Development Manager
Australian Centre for Public Infrastructure