



ASX AND MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

Iron Road Limited (Iron Road, ASX:IRD)



CENTRAL EYRE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT A NATIONAL PRIORITY

One of only four Projects nationwide added to Infrastructure Australia Priority List

Iron Road Limited (**Iron Road**, ASX: **IRD**) is pleased to announce that the Central Eyre Iron Project (CEIP) infrastructure (rail and port) has been declared a *Priority Project* by Infrastructure Australia (IA), a statutory authority of the Australian Government. The CEIP is only one of two South Australian Projects currently on the national Infrastructure Priority List managed by IA and was one of only four projects nationwide to be included in the current review.

Iron Road welcomes the declaration, particularly as it comes at a time when the Company is steering the CEIP toward a Final Investment Decision with one of the world's premier engineering and infrastructure construction firms, China Railway Group.

In addition to its work conducting Audits and developing Infrastructure Plans, IA has responsibility under the *Infrastructure Australia Act 2008* to evaluate infrastructure proposals and develop the Infrastructure Priority List. This is a rigorous prioritisation process, ensuring the Infrastructure Priority List is a credible pipeline of qualified potential infrastructure solutions.

Importantly, the categorisation of CEIP as a *Project* rather than merely an *Initiative* reflects that a full business case completed by Iron Road has been positively assessed by the IA Board. *Initiatives* are potential infrastructure solutions for which a business case has not yet been completed.

IA's assessment focuses on whether the project – in this case, the CEIP rail and port infrastructure – would have public benefits if commercially viable. IA noted that the benefits would be partially offset by environmental costs associated with the development. However, it has ascertained that the benefits of the CEIP infrastructure to South Australia and the nation clearly outweigh the manageable costs.

Iron Road Managing Director Andrew Stocks said that he was delighted to receive the IA stamp of approval as the Company worked its way through to a Final Investment Decision on the CEIP with project partner China Railway Group.

“We are pleased that Infrastructure Australia has acknowledged the immense regional and national benefits of the CEIP. This declaration will assist Iron Road in its funding task and drive the project to Final Investment Decision,” Mr Stocks said.

Mr Stocks said that the ongoing partnership with Emerald Grain was important in delivering the CEIP and ensured maximum benefit for local communities, commodity exporters and the region. In support of the infrastructure business, Iron Road plans to call for expressions of interest this year for third parties interested in accessing the proposed facilities once operational and has engaged Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula (RDAWEP) to manage the process.

“The deep water port and substantial heavy haulage railway will be a first for South Australia and a profound improvement on the State’s existing infrastructure base. The planned export infrastructure will become a strong catalyst for further development in the region. With this in mind, we have engaged the support and expertise of RDA to manage the process of calling for and evaluating expressions of interest on our behalf,” Mr Stocks concluded.

The Infrastructure Priority List may be found at –
<http://infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/projects/infrastructure-priority-list.aspx>

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About Infrastructure Australia

<http://infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/>

Infrastructure Australia is an independent statutory body with a mandate to prioritise and progress nationally significant infrastructure. It provides independent research and advice to all levels of government as well as investors and owners of infrastructure on the projects and reforms Australia needs to fill the infrastructure gap. It publically advocates for reforms on key issues including financing, delivering and operating infrastructure and how to better plan and utilise Australia's infrastructure networks. Infrastructure Australia was established in July 2008 to provide advice to the Australian Government under the *Infrastructure Australia Act 2008*.

In 2014, the Infrastructure Australia Act 2008 was amended to give Infrastructure Australia new powers, and to create an independent board with the right to appoint its own CEO. The amended Act came into effect on 1 September 2014. The new Infrastructure Australia Board was formed in September 2014. Led by Chairman Mark Birrell, the 12 members bring experience from business, academia, the public and private sectors. Under the Act, Infrastructure Australia has responsibility to strategically audit Australia's nationally significant infrastructure, and develop 15-year rolling Infrastructure Plans that specify national and state level priorities.

In addition to its work on the audits and plans, Infrastructure Australia also has responsibility to determine which nationally significant projects should be on the Infrastructure Priority List. This is a rigorous prioritisation process that ensures there is a highly credible pipeline of nationally significant infrastructure projects.

About Regional Development Australia, Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula (RDAWEP)

www.rdawep.org.au

RDAWEP is the lead agency for driving economic, business and tourism development in the Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula region. It is part of a national network of 55 regional development agencies established by the Australian Government in 2009.

RDAWEP was formed from the amalgamation of the Eyre Regional Development Board and Whyalla Economic Development Board. These boards have a proven reputation of driving economic development in their communities over two decades. This experience, along with ongoing collection of local intelligence, provides RDAWEP with substantial capability to facilitate the strategic development of the region into the future.

RDAWEP is funded through a cooperative arrangement with the Australian Government, South Australian Government, and the region's eleven Local Government Authorities (LGAs). The LGAs are; The City of Whyalla and City of Port Lincoln; and the District Councils of Ceduna, Cleve, Elliston, Franklin Harbour, Kimba, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Streaky Bay, Tumby Bay and Wudinna.

About the Central Eyre Iron Project

www.ironroadlimited.com.au

CEIP is a credible, long life project as demonstrated through an eight year development journey, with a definitive feasibility study and follow-on value engineering and optimisation work now completed. A high grade, low impurity iron concentrate will be produced for export to Asia, attracting a quality premium over reference iron ore prices. Substantial benefits for steel mill customers in pollution reduction and operating efficiencies have been validated through bulk CEIP sample tonnage preparation and testing. The shared export infrastructure is expected to be a strong catalyst for further development in the Eyre Peninsula region.