

Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Foundation

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Engineering Foundation

Foundation Annual Dinner Presentation – 27 May 2008

**“Our Infrastructure needs –
Government and Industry challenges ahead”**

Synopsis

The issue of infrastructure and the challenges that governments, industry, and the community are facing are at the forefront of everybody's mind and a topic covered almost daily in the media. The problems noted in the sector are seen at global level right down to council level... right in our backyard, one might say.



Undoubtedly there will not be 'single' solutions to such challenges. Directions and strategies will need to be considered at all levels and the repercussions of any solution under consideration will need to be viewed in the light of the global impact at government, industry, social levels... Add to this the environmental and economic impacts, the short and long-term considerations...

Even the still unresolved issues of public versus private interest and investment options weigh on us as communities and institutions, and many feel are yet to be resolved.

Many of the directions which will be taken will undoubtedly be driven by government and industry... most probably in some form of collaboration. But is this a global trend? Are such options being considered in all countries?

And what are the questions being asked in Australia? And in NSW? Again we are confronted with shared challenges, which will require shared solutions.

About Norman W. Johnston



As a Property and Infrastructure Project Professional for over 25 years, Norman Johnston has successfully undertaken \$4.5 Billion in major Projects both in Australia and the UAE. He has also prepared with McKinseys London as Lead Adviser of the Government of UAE, the Logistic Study for Abu Dhabi Infrastructure requirements over the next 25 years and recommendations to remedy potential problems and issues.



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Norman has been involved in Signature Developments in both continents. In all cases he was responsible as CEO/Chair for all financing, budgets, contract negotiation and delivery of the outcome.

The following reflect the Papers delivered to International Forums and the range and diversity of the major projects completed.

He has delivered papers at International Forums, including Keynote Addresses at

- the TWN Global CEO Conference on Private/Public Partnerships (Washington DC) two years running
- the Countries Lead Construction Forum (South Korea) on how Middle East Investment was progressing, the problems – opportunities and enterprise available.

He has also addressed

- the Dubai Investment Forum on the PPP approaches to international investment, joint ventures and Infrastructure Funds – as we had the first in the Emirates
- the Government Investment Board and Societies (Helsinki) on Middle East Infrastructure and Investment programs
- the Vienna Chambers of Business on PPP's and Infrastructure Investment
- the Crown Prince and Industry and Business Forums in Abu Dhabi on the way the Infrastructure Funds and PPP process operated as a Public Investment Vehicle .

Norman was involved at the highest levels in the following projects:

- as CEO of the Development Authorities and Chairman of the Project Committees of the UAE – Middle East Industrial City of Abu Dhabi – stage (2&3) and Al Ain Industrial City. This included the work on the industrial cities, on the port and channel
- as Group General Manager, Project Director and Chairman of Project in Australian projects, including the NSW Justice Precinct Parramatta, Walsh Bay Redevelopment, King Street Wharf, Central 2000, NSW Police HQ – Parramatta, Privatisation of Eastern Creek projects.

Norman currently works with the NSW Department of Planning, is Head of WSELIA – the largest planned Infrastructure and Urban land release of its kind in NSW history, designed to support Industrial and Business development over the next 25 years – and is the CEO Designate of the Darwin Project, a project currently before the Australian Federal Government for the rejuvenation and emergence of Northern Australia as a business and industry powerhouse in SE Asia.

... and if this is not enough, Norman is also a full-time father, to four beautiful children!



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