



Resolution Number Twelve

Submitted by the Greater NSW Branch Delegates Conference

Infrastructure – The Building Australia Fund

Background

On 19 May 2008, the Federal Government announced the creation of Infrastructure Australia. This body was established to develop a national strategy for repairing and modernising Australia's transport, water, energy and communications infrastructure using the *Building Australia Fund*. Chaired by Sir Rod Eddington, this advisory council is an important step in putting in place the consultative mechanisms to facilitate coordinated decision making at the national level.

The AWU has a substantial interest in these important sectors of the economy, and a large proportion of our national membership is engaged in work directly associated with projects in these areas.

As such, the AWU is of the view that it is entirely appropriate for the views of the union and its membership to be taken into consideration when national strategies are being contemplated by Infrastructure Australia. AWU Officials and members engaged in these industries bring with them a wealth of accumulated knowledge, skills and experience that would prove relevant and invaluable to the strategic considerations of this body. The AWU believes that in addition to formally obtaining the views of business, Infrastructure Australia should also obtain the views of those who represent the workers engaged in these important projects. Input into the deliberations of Infrastructure Australia should be broad-based, and should not be restricted to the interests of corporate Australia.

The AWU appreciates the critical role that nation-building enterprises play with regard to the collective generation of wealth in our country. The union's interest is in ensuring that nation-building projects of this magnitude and importance operate efficiently and effectively whilst delivering greater economic benefits to the national economy, to rural and regional communities, and to the union's members.

Resolution

This National Conference commends the Federal Government for its initiative in creating Infrastructure Australia. National Conference notes the importance of nation-building strategies and, in doing so, calls upon the Federal Government to formally engage with the AWU and its members through the operation of Infrastructure Australia, so that the views of employees who will work on these projects can be appropriately taken into consideration.

Moved:

Seconded:

Outcome: