



*The Association of Professional  
Engineers, Scientists and  
Managers, Australia*

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## SUBMISSION

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**To:** NSW Legislative Assembly  
Public Accounts Committee  
Inquiry into Public Private Partnerships

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**From:** Joe McKay NSW Branch President  
Association of Professional Engineers Scientists and Managers Australia

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**Date:** 28 October 2005

The Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia (APESMA) is the nation's largest not-for-profit organisation representing professional employees and contractors representing 40,000 members Australia wide.

We represent engineers, scientists, veterinarians, pharmacists, surveyors, IT professionals and architects across a broad range of industries in both the public and private sector.

The APESMA is an affiliate of Unions NSW and supports its submission to this enquiry.

APESMA comments on public private partnerships:

1. Government needs to retain a strong technical ability to undertake planning and pre-feasibility studies into infrastructure projects and service agreements.

We refer the Committee to "Government as an informed buyer", Engineers Australia 2000  
<http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/engineering/irc/publications/TechExpertA4.doc>

2. Government needs to retain the ability to review Public Private Partnership proposals from both financial and importantly technical aspects/assumptions from a whole of government view to ensure the proposal represents value for money both at time of implementation and into the future.

We would encourage the government to do a whole of government skills/qualifications audit, including the age profile of departments that review and implement projects.

The government should have a clear planning and review processes that review both technical and financial aspects of PPPs.

3. Government needs to review the outcomes of all PPP projects on a regular basis to ensure they achieved the specified financial and service outcomes.

There are many incidents where the NSW Government has outsourced services (particularly in IT area) but failed to have a formal ongoing review of cost benefit/ service delivery outcomes.

4. Government should look at ensuring PPP have a training component for apprenticeships and cadets to ensure a supply of technical knowledge for both within the public sector and by the industries that service it.

5. The Association asks that NSW Government consider adopting a formal consultative approach with the engineering profession organizations (Association of Consulting Engineers Australia, Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia, Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers Australia, Engineers Australia) on delivery of infrastructure, maintenance and technical services within and to government to improve planning, technical and financial outcomes of public private partnerships.

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