

# Foreword

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This volume is the result of a collaboration that crossed a number of divides. First, one author is an engineer by training, the other is an economist. (Both, however, have finished up working in the finance area.) Second, one is a practitioner who has worked on PPPs in both the UK and Australia, while the other is an academic. Third, one is British, the other is Australian (although each has spent a lot of time in both countries). Fourth, and most significantly, an almost unbridgeable divide has been spanned, for one is the son-in-law of the other.

The collaboration is evident in a number of respects, most notably in the practitioner-based knowledge brought to bear in the book. Some of the case studies directly reflect this ‘hands-on’ experience. Another way it shows up is in terms of the literature covered. Broadly speaking, the literature on public private partnerships falls into three groups. First, there is an engineering dimension, reflecting practitioner material. Second, there is the academic literature which stems from economics, finance and public policy. Third, there are voluminous government and independent reports and guidance documents prepared by specialized units and audit offices. We have tried to thread our way through all three, but have found the latter source to be especially valuable, if only because one of us had a hand in the preparation of a set of guidance documents and was, for a time, seconded to the State Government of Victoria, Australia to advise the Treasurer on PPPs. That fund of knowledge and material has found its way indirectly into the analysis at a number of points.

It is also perhaps worth mentioning that 36 of the engineering and economics articles that we have referred to and used in our study have been collected together by us (Grimsey and Lewis, 2004b) in what can be seen in many ways as a companion volume to this one.

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almost all of the text with remarkable speed and accuracy (although understandably, not always with good humour). Our publishers provided great support.