

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### BER TASKFORCE RECOMMENDATIONS WELCOMED BY CONTRACTING INDUSTRY

"The Building the Education Revolution (BER) Implementation Taskforce Report has made important observations on the administration of the program and it is important that governments – federal and state –work together with the industry and stakeholders to maximise the benefits of the BER program," Jim Barrett, Executive Director of the Australian Constructors Association said today.

"The BER program has delivered essential infrastructure for Australia, economic stimulus to communities across the country and helped keep thousands of Australians in jobs.

"It was never intended to be delivered in a 'business as usual' environment and should instead be judged on what it achieved at a time when the industry was doing it very tough.

"There have been few capital works programs in Australia which match the magnitude of the construction challenge set by the BER. The contracting industry has been asked to undertake thousands of construction projects concurrently in a geographic area spanning the continent.

"In ACA's view NSW has been the leader in the implementation of the BER Program and should be recognized as such.

"The BER started with a clean sheet of paper, an ambitious task list and a budget attached to an almost impossible delivery schedule."

Mr Barrett said that the industry confronted a project with unknown scope and a challenging timeframe. It also faced an enormous community relations challenge, with thousands of stakeholders ranging from clients, school communities, local communities, local trades people and local material suppliers and the young people who ultimately use the infrastructure.

"These were competitively tendered projects with the successful contractors required to manage complex risks including safety, environment, time, cost and quality.

"I'm confident time will judge the BER to be one of the most productive alliances between, governments, industry and the community and one of the most challenging infrastructure projects ever undertaken in Australia," Mr Barrett said.

*Attached is an ACA statement which provides analysis of the BER program.*

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