



# ASX AND MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

Iron Road Limited (Iron Road, ASX:IRD)



## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RECONFIRMS MAJOR PROJECT FACILITATION

**Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Hon Darren Chester MP,  
confirms renewal at meeting with Iron Road and China Railway Group Limited**

Iron Road Limited (**Iron Road**, ASX: IRD) is pleased to announce that the Australian Government has renewed the Major Project Facilitation (MPF) service for the Central Eyre Iron Project (CEIP) on the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia.

The renewal follows Iron Road and development partner China Railway Group Limited (CREC), Asia's largest infrastructure construction contractor, recent acceleration of the joint Project Commercialisation Programme for the CEIP.

Confirmation of the MPF renewal was given by the Hon Darren Chester MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport during a meeting in Canberra this morning attended by Iron Road and CREC personnel, including Iron Road Chairman Dr Peter Cassidy, Managing Director Andrew Stocks and Mr Cai Zemin, head of CREC's international business. The CEIP remains the only South Australian project to be granted MPF service.



Iron Road Limited Chairman Dr Peter Cassidy, The Hon Darren Chester MP, Minister for Infrastructure & Transport and Head of China Railway Group Limited's International Business Mr Cai Zemin.

The granting of MPF services recognises at a national level that the CEIP is of strategic significance to Australia and offers the support of the Australian Government through tailored facilitated services aimed at further strengthening the relationships between Iron Road and various State and Federal government agencies.

Since obtaining MPF in 2014, Iron Road has achieved numerous key milestones including completion of the Definitive Feasibility Study, Optimisation Study, Indigenous Land Use Agreement, lodgement of all primary approval applications with Government agencies and establishing formal relationships with several strategic partners.

Confirmation of the MPF renewal follows closely from the September 2016 announcement that the CEIP infrastructure (rail and port) has been declared a *Priority Project* by Infrastructure Australia which is a statutory authority of the Australian Government. The CEIP is one of only ten Projects on the national Infrastructure Priority List and the only 'Opportunity for Growth Project' nationwide.

Iron Road Managing Director Andrew Stocks said the continued recognition and support of the Australian Government for the CEIP was highly valued.

"The Australian Government offers strong support for projects of strategic significance for Australia, such as the CEIP, and we are very pleased to receive confirmation of the MPF renewal this morning," Mr Stocks said.

Iron Road has confirmed substantial third party access opportunities to its standard gauge railway and Capesize port and has partnered with Emerald Grain, a wholly owned subsidiary of Japanese conglomerate Sumitomo Corporation, to develop a new grain distribution and supply chain network. This alternative export pathway for grain growers will deliver significant benefits for Eyre Peninsula communities.

In support of the infrastructure business, Iron Road and Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula will call for expressions of interest this year for third parties interested in accessing the proposed rail and port facilities once operational.

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