

IPA MEDIA RELEASE

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Wednesday, 7 March 2007

WA NEEDS KEY POLICY REFORMS **MANNKAL FOUNDATION LAUNCHES *Project Western Australia***

The Mannkal Economic Education Foundation will today launch *Project Western Australia*, an ambitious research program that will initiate much needed policy reform in Western Australia. *Project Western Australia* is a joint project of the Mannkal Foundation and the Institute of Public Affairs.

There is a community consensus that Western Australia is suffering public policy inertia, and that the state is at risk of not capitalising on the opportunities provided by a growing economy.

'Increasingly there is despair in Western Australia at the lack of policy formation in keys areas such as urban development, the future of Perth, and statewide transport. These issues are vital to our future success and *Project Western Australia* will bring them to prominence on the political agenda,' said Chairman of the Mannkal Foundation, Ron Manners.

Some of the key areas that the project will examine include:

- the regulatory environment that restricts the urban development of the city and suburbs of Perth
- the threat to individual and corporate property rights posed by state and local government in Western Australia
- the potential for privatisation of the public transport system and the benefits of new toll roads.

The Institute of Public Affairs has long been involved in political reform in WA dating back to the early 1990s when it published *Reform and recovery: An agenda for the new Western Australian Government* which acted as a policy manual for the Western Australian State Government throughout the decade.

Recent policy research conducted by the Institute of Public Affairs about Western Australia includes *Fixing the crisis: A fair deal for homebuyers*, *Property rights in Western Australia: Time for a changed direction*, and *Opportunity squandered: How the States have wasted their reform bonus*. All of these publications are available at www.ipa.org.au.

The Institute of Public Affairs' long association with Western Australia includes the fact that two former Executive Directors of the IPA are Western Australians John Hyde, and Dr Mike Nahan.

Outcomes of *Project Western Australia* will include research papers, policy conferences, and opportunities for community discussion. The project will also involve students from the State's universities.

For further information and comment:

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All IPA publications available at www.ipa.org.au. More information about the Mannkal Foundation at www.mannkal.org.