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TRANSPORT IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEEDS URGENT REFORM

Reform will bring Western Australia the transport infrastructure and services that the state needs to continue its rapid growth, according to a report released today by the Institute of Public Affairs and Mannkal Economic Education Foundation.

The discussion paper, *Moving in the Right Direction: Transport Reform in Western Australia* highlights the new approaches necessary to enable individuals to move around the city of Perth and minimise the costs of congestion.

“Transport policy is too often driven by vested interests,” said the author, Richard Allsop, today. “These reforms will reorientate policy towards the interests of consumers, such as increased transport services and decreased congestion.”

The paper offers three key recommendations designed to bring benefits to Perth and Western Australia:

- Privatised Perth’s metropolitan rail network,
- Ensure that private sector funding, in the form of public private partnerships is considered as an option to pay for any future major greater metropolitan road projects,
- Allow greater competition in the taxi industry.

These recommendations draw upon similar successful reforms across the country and overseas. Western Australia needs the benefits already enjoyed by other states.

Richard Allsop was formerly Senior Adviser and then Chief of Staff to the Ministers for Transport in the Victorian Kennett Government, and was a key strategist in the successful privatisation of Victoria’s public transport network.

Project Western Australia is a joint program between the Institute of Public Affairs and Mannkal Economic Education Foundation. The project seeks to develop new approaches to policy formation in Western Australia.

For further information and comment:

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Moving in the Right Direction: Transport Reform in Western Australia is available at www.ipa.org.au.