

Federation of the Future

NSW Review of Federal Financial Relations

17 February 2020

1. **Welcome to Country** (9.00am – 9.10am)
2. **NSW Treasurer’s Welcome** (9.10am - 9.30am) - The challenges before us
3. **Why now is the time for transformation** (9.30am - 10.30am) - NSW Federal Financial Relations Review Panel: David Thodey AO, the Rt Hon Sir Bill English KNZM, the Hon John Anderson AO, Jane Halton AO PSM, Professor John Freebairn AO and Professor Anne Twomey

Morning tea break (10.30am – 11.00am)

4. **How the states and the Commonwealth can work together to solve today’s federation challenges** (11.00am - 12.00pm) - The Hon Jay Weatherill, Dr Martin Parkinson AC PSM, Dr Cassandra Goldie, Paul McClintock AO

Lunch break (12.00pm - 12.45pm)

5. **Funding the future – reform priorities and practical pathways** (12.45pm - 1.45pm) - Dr Ken Henry AC, Helen Silver AO, Blair Comley PSM

6. **Doing things differently – practical issues and options for reform**

How can we do better than transfer duty? (1.45pm - 2.45pm)

Transfer duties are widely considered to have large costs on society, but for state governments what are the feasible alternatives and practical pathways to get there?

Brendan Coates, Grattan Institute, Belinda Ngo, Property Council of Australia, Professor John Freebairn AO, Belinda Ngo,

Future State: Rethinking how we move and build for our citizens (2.45pm – 3.45pm)

How can we keep our citizens moving while ensuring road use costs (like maintenance, congestion, and pollution) are priced sustainably? What are the best avenues for the federation to support nation building infrastructure?

Romilly Madew AO, Infrastructure Australia, Gabriel Metcalf, Committee for Sydney, Adrian Dwyer, Infrastructure Partnerships Australia

Afternoon tea (3.45pm – 4.00pm)

Reform of Federation is possible - the international experience (4.00pm – 4.45pm)

Panel discussion on how the Australian Federation compares against international peers and the opportunities and learnings from the international experience with reform.

Dr Sean Dougherty, OECD Network on Fiscal Relations (Videoconference), Professor Richard Eccleston, Institute for the Study of Social Change at the University of Tasmania

7. **Event close: Chair of the NSW Federal Financial Relations Review** (4.45pm-5.00pm)

NSW Review of Federal Financial Relations

The NSW Review of Federal Financial Relations was announced by the NSW Government in its 2019-20 Budget.

While the NSW Budget is in strong shape, the Review is taking place in a time of demographic, economic and technological change. Without action, these changes will place our future living standards under pressure.

In this context, the Review Panel has been tasked with recommending practical pathways for more sustainable funding arrangements and driving a vision for a federation that supports innovative policy and better outcomes for all Australians.

The Review is being chaired by David Thodey AO, and led by a distinguished panel of experts, including the Rt Hon Sir Bill English KNZM, the Hon John Anderson AO, Jane Halton AO PSM, and Professors John Freebairn AO and Anne Twomey.

In October 2019, the Review Panel released its Discussion Paper, commencing a national conversation about how state governments, in a time of great change, can sustainably fund and deliver the frontline services and infrastructure that citizens value. Following its release, the Panel has heard from many voices across the country, including through written submissions and face-to-face discussions.

The Review Panel will deliver a Consultation Findings Report in February and its Interim and Final Reports in 2020.

More information on the Review, including the Terms of Reference and Discussion Paper, can be found at: <https://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/federal-financial-relations-review>



Event speakers

Session 3: Why now is the time for transformation – NSW Federal Financial Relations Review Panel



Mr David Thodey AO

Mr Thodey is Chair of the Commonwealth Science, Industry & Research Organisation and Tyro Payments. He is also a Director of Ramsay Health Care, Vodafone Group and Xero (moving into the role of Xero Chair on 1 February 2020). Mr Thodey was formerly Chief Executive Officer of Telstra, and before joining Telstra, Chief Executive Officer of IBM (ANZ).



The Rt Hon Sir Bill English KNZM

Former New Zealand Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance. Sir Bill retired from the NZ parliament in 2018 after a career spanning 28 years. During this time, Sir Bill guided the New Zealand economy through the global financial crisis and initiated tax reform, capital disciplines for the public balance sheet, and financing the rebuild of Christchurch after the 2010 earthquakes.



Ms Jane Halton AO PSM

Experienced Commonwealth public servant with nearly 15 years as Secretary, including for the Department of Health and the Department of Finance. Ms Halton has served on a wide range of Government and business boards both in Australia and overseas, including as Independent Chair of the Council on the Ageing Australia, and board member for ANZ Bank, Clayton Utz lawyers and the Australian Policy Institute



The Hon John Anderson AO

Former Australian Deputy Prime Minister, Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Development, and Federal Minister for Primary Industries and Energy. Mr Anderson remains a strong advocate for rural and regional communities.



Professor Anne Twomey

Professor of Constitutional Law and Director, Constitutional Reform Unit at the University of Sydney. Professor Twomey is an expert in the field of constitutional law, with research interests in federalism. Professor Twomey has practised as a solicitor and has worked for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Research Service, the Commonwealth Senate, and the Cabinet Office of New South Wales.



Professor John Freebairn AO

Ritchie Chair of Economics at the University of Melbourne. Professor Freebairn is an applied microeconomist and economic policy analyst with interests in taxation reform and public finance. Professor Freebairn served as an advisor to the Henry Tax Review.

Session 4: How the states and the Commonwealth can work together to solve today's federation challenges



The Hon Jay Weatherill

45th Premier of South Australia (2011-2018) and the South Australian Labor Party's longest continuous serving minister. Mr Weatherill is Industry Professor at the University of South Australia, Ambassador for International children's education organisation Reggio Emilia and Chairs a research project for ARACY to create a framework for research priorities into childhood.



Dr Martin Parkinson AC PSM

Dr Parkinson is Chancellor of Macquarie University, having previously served as Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet between January 2016 and August 2019, and the Australian Treasury from March 2011 to December 2014. Prior to this, Dr Parkinson served as inaugural Secretary of the Department of Climate Change from its establishment in December 2007.



Dr Cassandra Goldie

CEO of the Australian Council of Social Services, the national peak body for the community sector, and an advocate for tackling poverty and inequality. Dr Goldie has also held senior roles in both the not-for-profit and public sectors at a local, national and international level, and is Adjunct Professor with the Law Faculty at the University of New South Wales.



Mr Paul McClintock AO

Former Chairman of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia, and current chairman of I-MED Network, NSW Ports and Broadspectrum. Mr McClintock is also a Director of St Vincent's Health Australia Limited, The George Institute for Global Health and O'Connell Street Associates Pty Ltd. Mr McClintock previously served as the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Cabinet Policy Unit reporting to the Prime Minister.

Session 5: Funding the future – reform priorities and practical pathways



Dr Ken Henry AC

Dr Henry was Secretary of the Australian Treasury from 2001 to 2011, is Chairman of the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation at the Australian National University, Governor of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia, and a member of the Advisory Board of the John Grill Centre for Project Leadership at the University of Sydney. Dr Henry is a non-executive director of the ASX and was Chairman of National Australia Bank Limited from December 2015 to November 2019.



Ms Helen Silver AO

Allianz Australia’s Chief General Manager, Corporate Governance and Conduct. Previously, Ms Silver spent more than 25 years in executive roles in the Victoria and Commonwealth public service, including as Secretary to the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet. Ms Silver played a key advisory role in the devastating Black Saturday bushfires; introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme; and Gonski Review of school funding.



Mr Blair Comley PSM

Director at Port Jackson Partners, with over 20 years of experience in Commonwealth and State government. Mr Comley was the Secretary of the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, the Secretary of the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, and worked in the Department of Treasury during the design of the GST. Mr Comley served as Secretary of the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet from 2014 to 2017.

Session 6: Doing things differently – practical issues and options for reform

How can we do better than transfer duty?



Mr Brendan Coates

Household Finances Program Director at the Grattan Institute. Before joining Grattan, Mr Coates was a macro-financial economist with the World Bank in Indonesia and Latin America and undertook a number of roles with the Australian Treasury, including in tax-transfer system reform.



Ms Belinda Ngo

Executive Director of International and Capital Markets for the Property Council of Australia. Ms Ngo is responsible for national policy relating to investment, tax and capital markets for Australia’s \$670 billion property investment industry. Previously, Ms Ngo worked for Macquarie Group and KPMG, having specialised in capital markets and tax policy, tax advisory and capital management. Ms Ngo is a Chartered Accountant and a Solicitor of NSW



Professor John Freebairn AO

Ritchie Chair of Economics at the University of Melbourne. Professor Freebairn is an applied microeconomist and economic policy analyst with interests in taxation reform and public finance. Professor Freebairn served as an advisor to the Henry Tax Review.

Future State: Rethinking how we move and build for our citizens



Ms Romilly Madew AO

Chief Executive of Infrastructure Australia. Previously Ms Madew led the Green Building Council of Australia for 13 years. Ms Madew holds Board positions with Sydney Olympic Park Authority and Chief Executive Women, has sat on numerous ministerial panels, and is an Honorary Life Fellow of the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council, Life Fellow of the Green Building Council of Australia and Honorary Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia.



Mr Gabriel Metcalf

Chief Executive Officer of the Committee for Sydney. From 2005 to 2018 Mr Metcalf served as the President and CEO of SPUR, an urban policy research and advocacy group for the San Francisco Bay Area. Mr Metcalf has led initiatives on housing, transport, economic development, and climate adaptation, among other topics, striving to bring together both vision and practicality.



Mr Adrian Dwyer

Chief Executive Officer of Infrastructure Partnerships Australia. Mr Dwyer's career spans business, policy and public service roles across the private sector and the NSW and Australian governments – with expertise across transport, utilities and social infrastructure markets, and wider public administration. Mr Dwyer was previously Executive Director of Policy and Research at Infrastructure Australia, where he led the development of the Australian Infrastructure Plan.

Reform of Federation is possible - the international experience



Dr Sean Dougherty

Senior Advisor at the OECD in Paris, where Dr Dougherty has advised governments for almost 20 years. Dr Dougherty currently heads the Secretariat of the Network on Fiscal Relations across Levels of Government. He has published widely on fiscal federalism and institutional issues, and also teaches as an Adjunct Professor at the Paris School of Economics.



Professor Richard Eccleston

Professor of Political Science and founding Director of the Institute for the Study of Social Change at the University of Tasmania. A specialist in comparative political economy, Professor Eccleston has published on a wide range of topics, from fiscal federalism to international tax avoidance. Professor Eccleston the author of seven books, including *The Future of Federalism: Intergovernmental Relations in an Age of Austerity* (2017), a 12-nation study of the impact of the financial crisis on federal financial relations. In 2014 Professor Eccleston was Fulbright Senior Scholar in Washington DC where he studied the impact of the financial crisis on American federalism.

Event Moderator



Mr Rhys Edwards

Principal of RDME Consulting. Previously, Mr Edwards has worked at the highest levels of the public sector, including six years as Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet in Tasmania. Mr Edwards is an honorary senior research fellow at Melbourne University, a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and a Salzburg Global Fellow.
