

SA makes for a great investment

Recent comments by Chair of the Economic Development Board, Raymond Spencer, must be considered in detail if South Australia hopes to grow jobs and productivity in the years ahead (*SA should double debt level to invest in infrastructure*).

It is time for an informed debate about budget policy. Governments at all levels must reconsider the extent to which the drive to surplus and unquestioning dedication to AAA credit ratings are hurting growth and opportunities to invest in long-term productivity-enhancing infrastructure.

This simplistic 'fiscal populism' undermines the conversation we need to have about what infrastructure will deliver the best return on investment for tax-payers. Our elected representatives must embrace opportunities to invest in the future of South Australia. We are a great state with enormous potential. We should not sacrifice this for political sloganeering favouring a better balance sheet in the short-term, but more congestion, slower freight and lower productivity in the decades ahead.

Ends

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