

# Australia

## Southbank Education and Training Precinct



**TYPE OF TOOL**  
*Project*



**MAIN SECTOR**  
*Social infrastructure*



**THEME**  
*Green*



**INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS**  
*Fiscal sustainability, affordability and value for money;*  
*Efficient and effective public procurement*

### In a nutshell



**OBJECTIVE:** The Southbank Education and Training Precinct Project in Queensland was underpinned by a strong service need to meet the growing demand for education and training in modern teaching facilities.



**Agency in charge**  
Department of Employment and Training, Queensland



**Levels of government**  
Sub-national



**Year of implementation**  
2005



**Current status**  
Operation



**Value**  
\$542 million

### Overview

Judged as the ‘Best Global Project’ at the prestigious Public Private Finance Awards in London in 2007, Southbank Education and Training Precinct was Queensland’s first PPP and was delivered under the Queensland Government’s PPP Policy and Value for Money Framework. The project underwent a rigorous business case analysis supported by a robust quantitative financial assessment before approval by the Queensland Government. Importantly, the Queensland Government undertook a comprehensive market sounding process as part of developing the business case to understand the private sector’s key issues and concerns. The project was governed and managed in a manner that promoted accountability and responsibility throughout the decision-making structure with representation from a wide variety of stakeholders and input from specialist advisers. In addition to the successful delivery of the project, the Queensland Government was able to leverage the other benefits of PPPs which include innovation, leading edge design, optimal risk allocation and whole-of-life considerations. As a direct result of the lessons learned from the project, the Queensland Government updated the Value for Money Framework.

From the outset the Southbank Education and Training Precinct Project aimed to provide the highest level of ecologically sustainable design. It was awarded the 2009 Southbank Business Sustainability Award for environmental design, water conservation, waste management and energy management.

**Challenges:** During the tender process, a low level of interaction resulted in the private sector misinterpreting the project scope.

**Lessons learned:** A more interactive tender process with the private sector would have reduced the risk of the private sector misinterpreting project scope or output specifications.

#### REFERENCES:

- Department of Infrastructure and Transport, Australia (2010), *Infrastructure Planning and Delivery: Best Practice Case Studies*, [https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/best\\_practice\\_guide.pdf](https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/best_practice_guide.pdf)