

## MEDIA RELEASE

3 October 2007

Australia's private sector has welcomed the "open for business" phase of a computer modelling program that will give Australia an innovative edge in critical infrastructure protection.

Senior representatives of the Trusted Information Sharing Network (TISN) for Critical Infrastructure Protection, Banking and Finance, Energy, Communications, and Water Services Sector Groups today joined Attorney-General Philip Ruddock to launch the tasking phase of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Modelling and Analysis (CIPMA) program.

The world-leading computer program can give business a "footprint" of a manmade or natural disaster, speeding response and recovery times. The representatives of the sectoral Groups with priority for CIPMA tasking, said the program will give industry "virtual insight" into the consequences of a range of incidents and accidents, both within and across sectors.

The co-chairs of the Energy Group, Dr Brian Spalding and Mr Bill Forbes AM, strongly endorsed the CIPMA program in terms of its relevance across the diverse sectors of electricity, liquid fuels and gas supply.

Dr Spalding and Mr Forbes said "the high level of trust developed through CIPMA, where industry has been prepared to provide valuable data and information, enables the Program to help us optimise our planning, and set priorities for restoring services by providing an accurate picture of our infrastructure system dependencies,"

Mr Bill Davey Co-chair of the Communications Sector Group, said CIPMA's capability to run the program simultaneously on multiple events will have wide-ranging benefits.

"The program can look at an explosion in one part of the country while another area is suffering from a bushfire or flood,' Mr Davey said, "that increases its usefulness as a tool in protecting critical infrastructure right across the country."

Mr Damian McMeekin, Chair of the Banking and Finance Sector Group, praised the collaboration that is the cornerstone of CIPMA.

'By working together with the government and our colleagues within the TISN, we have built a capability we could never have produced on our own,' Mr McMeekin said.

Chair of the Water Services group, Mr David Parsons, echoed Mr McMeekin's comments.

"CIPMA, like the TISN, is a unique collaboration between the private and public sectors that benefits not only business, but the broader Australian community, by strengthening our ability to bounce back in the face of adversity,' Mr Parsons said.

More information about CIPMA, the TISN and TISN sector groups is available from the TISN: [www.tisn.gov.au](http://www.tisn.gov.au).

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