



PROJECT CONTROLS CONFERENCE 2017 – Presentation Summary Template

Title: How much project control is too much: the case for and against “Interference”?

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Summary: In the current reporting environment, those responsible for delivering projects are required to report against fixed metrics. The desire to ‘control’ the outcome of a project drives this culture of oversight that may be perceived as interference in the project manager’s ability to meet client expectations. Recently, two countries have formalised the controls placed on project delivery. In the USA, the Program Management Improvement and Accountability Act of 2015 (PMIAA) was enacted to enhance accountability and best practices in project and program management throughout US federal government projects. In the UK, the Association of Project Management received a Royal Charter from Her Majesty The Queen which will provide professional status, as well as additional governance requirements, for members. Will this move to a transparent control regime deliver more successful project outcomes?

The global project management sector is estimated to grow to over US\$6.6 trillion by 2020 (PMI, 2015), and in Australia the pipeline of existing and potential major capital projects is estimated to be AUD\$921 billion (BCA, 2012). Infrastructure Australia has recently added four projects valued at AUD\$6.02 billion to its Infrastructure Priority List (AIPM, 2017). These mega projects aim to relieve productivity bottlenecks that threaten Australia’s standard of living and competitiveness. Effective project controls will be necessary to manage and deliver these projects, but how, by whom, and at what cost? To manage these opportunities in an increasingly regulated environment, it is suggested high performing project teams will need to develop innovative approaches to apply in practice. However, there is considerable concern amongst Australian business leaders that we do not have the capacity to deliver these projects (ICCPM, 2011) due to productivity, cost, and efficiency constraints (Hatcher et al, 2013). A flexible approach to learning can develop the skills and knowledge necessary to deliver projects in this environment.

Keywords: Project controls, mega projects, project teams, applied learning, innovative practice

Outcomes for the attendees i.e. what’s in it for them, and what can they take away and apply when they head back to their offices.

Attendees of this session will have an opportunity to explore how to:

- Understand the impact of the current regulatory requirements on managing projects across multiple sectors, in Australia and overseas.
- Gain insights on how to advance their career through applying lessons learned to generate innovative practices.
- Develop high performing project teams using flexible learning environments.