UNIVERSITY of Wollongong SMART Infrastructure Facility chief executive Garry Bowditch has thanked all those who supported the International Symposium for Next Generation Infrastructure Australia 2013.

Mr Bowditch said SMART’s objective as the inaugural host of ISNGI was to inspire the nation and the world to think differently and positively about long-term planning of infrastructure systems.

“The first step in making that happen is now complete with the successful conclusion of the ISNGI Australia 2013 program.

“The task ahead remains substantial and we are strengthened from the success of the ISNGI and a very influential network of scholars, business practitioners and policy-makers, which is now firmly in place,” he said.

“This network will help to make a considerable difference in supporting governments and stakeholders with the task of ‘getting things done’ in infrastructure.

“The feedback from the delegates at the Business and Policy Dialogue in Sydney and the Symposium in Wollongong has been overwhelmingly positive, and has provided ourselves with the confirmation that we have achieved our objective for 2013,” he said.

“The task ahead is substantial and we now have in place the network and resources to make a considerable difference. This could not have been achieved without your support that has enabled SMART to achieve what we set out to do.

“I am very grateful for your vision for a better infrastructure future and belief in SMART as a thought leader to make this happen.

“It has been our privilege to host you and we very much look forward to developing new and ongoing partnerships that help governments, industry and the community to be better informed and front-footed with infrastructure planning and management.”

Mr Bowditch said the event also enjoyed extensive media coverage.