Public infrastructure investment in Australia increased significantly in the 2000s. But did Australian taxpayers get value for their tax dollars? A number of exogenous and endogenous events conspired to significantly increase public infrastructure costs in the 2000s, such as the increased demand for infrastructure from mining boom and the millennium drought as well as Keynesian-style (borrow and spend) responses to the GFC. At the same time, there was a cumulative build-up in costly environmental and planning regulations as well as the introduction of more onerous technical standards in some jurisdictions, which often unnecessarily added to costs. SMART's Infrastructure Cost Drivers Study is examining over 60 public infrastructure case studies from the 2000s to draw out policy lessons from 'the Perfect Storm'.

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For more information on SMART Infrastructure Facility, visit: http://smart.uow.edu.au/events/.