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on Tuesday 6/5/2003

## Machiavelli and Megaprojects

### Summary:

A discussion about the history of megaproject blowouts. The Suez Canal, Sydney Opera House, Concorde, the Channel Tunnel - they're all icons, symbols of cultural or economic progress, and they're all high on the list of 'megaproject' debacles.

Not that they aren't admired and patronised, they are, but if it was known in advance just how much time, effort and money would be required to get them up, they might not have been given the initial tick.

A new book, touted as the first to provide a comprehensive, up-to-date examination of megaprojects, outlines a well worn formula for putting up megaprojects ... you underestimate costs and you overestimate revenues, then you underestimate the environmental impact and you overestimate the economic impact ... and presto ... approval!

### Guests on this program:

#### Bent Flyvbjerg

Professor of Planning at Aalborg University, Denmark; principle author of, "Megaprojects and Risk: An Anatomy of Ambition".

#### Norman Day

Principle of Norman Day Architects in Melbourne; architecture writer for the Melbourne Age; contributor to a soon-to-be-released volume on the Federation Square project.

### Publications:

#### Megaprojects and Risk: An anatomy of ambition

*Author:* Bent Flyvbjerg, Nils Bruzelius and Werner Rothengatter.

*Publisher:* Cambridge University Press, 2003.

**Story Producer and Researcher:** Chris Bullock

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