

Infrastructure weekly update

For the week starting 19 February 2024



To: Hon Chris Bishop, Minister for Infrastructure,
Simon Court MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary
to the Minister for Infrastructure

Minister's comments:

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1. Actions arising from previous meetings

Meeting date	Agreed action	By whom	By when	Status
28 November	Consider next steps for the NZ Infrastructure Strategy	Minister	No deadline	Pending
11 December	[REDACTED]	Minister/ TW	22 Dec	[REDACTED] s9(2)(f)(iv)
11 December	[REDACTED]	TW	asap	Pending
	[REDACTED]	s9(2)(g)(i)		
24 January	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)
29 January	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	s9(2)(g)(i)		

2. Key issues and updates

2.1. Project plan for delivering the 30-year infrastructure plan

We have started drafting a project plan for the 30-year Infrastructure Plan [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Responsible GM: Geoff Cooper

2.2. Update on Fast Track Consenting

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(f)(iv)

Responsible GM: Barbara Tebbs

2.3. Ministerial consultation on the draft Government Policy Statement on land transport 2024 (GPS)

We have prepared feedback for the Ministry of Transport on the draft GPS. Our feedback includes recommendations to:

- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] s9(2)(f)(iv)
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Responsible GM: Barbara Tebbs

2.4. Upcoming events

We advise you of any significant forums or events that Infrastructure Commission staff are attending or presenting at.

Event	Event date	Description (attending/presenting/purpose)
Under-Secretary Court meeting with Te Waihanga	16 February	An introductory meeting to discuss Mr Court's delegations and how we can provide support.
Infrastructure Leaders Network	21 February	The Infrastructure Commission is hosting this in-person event to bring together public sector infrastructure project leaders. We have invited Under-Secretary Court to attend.
Maritime NZ Board Meeting	27 February	Barbara Tebbs, General Manager Policy, will be contributing (along with senior managers from MBIE Energy and the MoT) to a strategic discussion about the current policy imperatives for infrastructure.
Engineering NZ -Transportation Group	5/6 March	Lunchtime session on congestion charging. Peter Nunns, Director – Economics, will be speaking about congestion charging and moving from 'why' to 'how'.
Wellington Regional Leadership Committee forum	12 March	Geoff Cooper, General Manager Strategy, will be speaking about transport infrastructure needs.
Infrastructure NZ: Funding and Financing Conference	26/27 March	Geoff Cooper, General Manager Strategy, will be presenting on findings from some of the Commission's recent research.

Responsible GM: Anna Moodie

3. Upcoming advice

3.1. Upcoming briefings and aides memoire

We provide advice to you on our work programme and our contribution to the government’s wider work programme – both proactively and in response to requests from you.

Topic and tracking number	Date due to your office	What this advice covers	Deadline for Minister’s feedback
Construction sector capacity [redacted] 316] s9(2)(f)(iv)	Sent 15 February s9(2)(f)(iv)	Insight on vertical build contractor market capacity as informed by our recent engagement with the sector.	asap
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	s9(2)(f)(iv)
Briefings re reports and publications			
Approaches to infrastructure pricing – research report	March/April	Will outline insights from a current pricing analysis being conducted by PWC as part of a programme of work to develop an economic framework for pricing infrastructure across four sectors – land transport, water, telco and energy.	n/a

3.2. Monitoring and performance reports

We provide quarterly reports on our performance against the Statement of Performance Expectations, regular updates on the National Infrastructure Pipeline, and updates on cross-government work to deliver the Infrastructure Strategy.

Topic	Date due to your office	What this report covers	Timeline
None			

3.3. Upcoming Cabinet papers

We provide advice to you on upcoming papers that you or your colleagues are taking to Cabinet, where relevant to the infrastructure system.

Lead Minister	Description	Date due to your office	Committee	Timeframe
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform	Fast Track Consenting Bill – draft paper for LEG	14 February	LEG	Ministerial consultation on draft Cabinet paper begins on 16 February
Minister of Transport	Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport	16 February	ECO	To go to ECO on 28 February

3.4. Ministerial Official Information Act requests

Where requested, we provide information to inform responses to OIAs that you receive.

Date received from your office	Correspondent	Description of request	Date due to Minister	Date due to send
12 February	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] s9(2)(f)(iv)	[REDACTED]

3.5. Departmental Official Information Act requests

We provide you with a heads-up on OIAs that we have received and our proposed response.

Date received	Correspondent	Description of request	Date for heads up to Minister's office	Date due to send
8 February	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		s9(2)(f)(iv)
9 February	[REDACTED]	Correspondence received since 1 December 2023 from Minister/s re the fiscal sustainability programme, including any savings required by us;	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	Any letters of expectation or guidance from Te Kawa Mataaho received since 1 December 2023 re change management or employment relations.	s9(2)(f)(iv)	

3.6. Upcoming Ministerial meetings

Where requested, we provide support for meetings you are attending.

Meeting	Meeting date	Who will be attending/presenting	Comment / action
Housing and Infrastructure Ministers Group	26 February	tbc	Office to confirm if any advice is required from the Commission.

[Note that, due to timeframes, Written and Oral Parliamentary questions and media requests will be provided directly to the Minister's office and not signalled in this report.]

Appendix A: List of upcoming reports and publications

We investigate a range of topics to help build the capability and performance of the infrastructure system and to support discussions with the sector. We publish reports that we commission or author ourselves – including research insights, ‘deep dive’ inquiries, project reviews, economic analysis, and policy insights. The list below sets out our current programme of reports. We provide the Minister’s office with a heads-up before publishing.

Topic / Title	Type of report	Intended publication date	What this report or publication covers
<i>Building a healthy future: The potential scale of investment in Crown-owned health infrastructure over the next 30 years</i>	Research report	Published 15 February	This review was commissioned from NZIER and estimates the public hospital infrastructure spending needed during the next 30 years. A briefing on this was provided to the Minister on 8 December [TW-2023-311 refers].
<i>Build or maintain? New Zealand's infrastructure asset values, investment, and depreciation, 1990-2022</i>	Research insight	W/C 19 February	This report is expected to provide consistent baseline data on the asset value of our infrastructure networks (public and private), current/historic rates of capital investment, and current/historic depreciation rates. It provides a quantitative evidence base to complement the “Asset management maturity across the public sector” report. An aide memoire on this report was provided to the Minister on 26 January [TW-2024-340 refers].
Local government financing in New Zealand (Research Insights paper)	Research insight	March	The paper provides historical context on local government’s use of debt for infrastructure investment, describes current local government financing mechanisms, and provides information on councils’ current debt levels, debt capacity, and cost of capital. An aide memoire providing a heads-up on this work was provided to the Minister on 19 December [TW-2023-332 refers].

Asset management maturity across the public sector	Research report	March/April 2024	This report looks at the maturity of New Zealand's system settings to ensure that we have the appropriate skills, processes, and funding in place to look after and be a good steward of New Zealand's infrastructure.
Potential sites for aggregate extraction in fast growing regions	Research report	April 2024	This work is being undertaken by GNS and is intended to provide useful spatial planning information to inform local government integrated planning. The product will provide geospatial information on potential aggregate sources in four regions: Auckland, Wellington, Tauranga and Queenstown where supply is currently constrained. Between now and publication we are engaging with the relevant local government agencies and MBIE, and then with the quarrying sector, to ensure the final product is fit for purpose. The published geospatial data will be hosted by GNS with free password protected access for users.
Approaches to Infrastructure Pricing Study	Research Insight	April 2024	This is part of a programme of work to develop an economic framework for pricing infrastructure across four sectors – land transport, water, telco and energy. Research to be published includes current pricing analysis done by PwC.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] s9(2)(f)(iv)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)

Towards better contracts: building better relationships to get the most out of building	Research report	Q2 2024	Report commissioned from ALTA. The success or failure of a project is often determined in its early stages – in particular, the commercial and contractual framework will set the foundation for the relationship and incentives that play out across a project’s lifecycle. This is part of our wider work to help create a consistent culture of world class project performance.
Insurance of infrastructure against natural disasters (June quarter 2024 Research Insights paper)	Research insight	Q2 2024	This report is expected to provide information on current approaches to insuring infrastructure assets, across multiple networks, against natural disasters. It will also explore the economic consequences of different approaches to insurance or self-insurance.