

Infrastructure weekly update

For the week starting 10 June 2024



To: Hon Chris Bishop, 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
29 January	Provide advice on prioritisation, implications and trade-offs for development of 30-year infrastructure plan	TW	For May Budget decisions	Completed – see the draft SPE and TW-2024-419 (sent 5 June)
27 May	Outline the purpose, scope and deliverables for the National Infrastructure Plan	TW	asap	Completed – TW-2024-419 (sent 5 June) refers.

2. Key issues and updates

2.1. National Infrastructure Plan

The Infrastructure Priorities Programme (IPP) provides a structured independent review of infrastructure proposals and problems in various stages of planning, including initiatives that avoid the need for investment. The IPP will open for applications on 19 June 2024. In advance of this date, we will send you a pack of information including a media release, speaking points, a copy of the Assessment Framework for the IPP, and a summary of the Governance and Signout Policy.

Peter Nunns, Acting General Manager - National Infrastructure Plan

2.2. Environment Select Committee Oral Submission on Fast Track Approvals Bill

The Commission has accepted the Committee's invitation to provide an oral submission. We are scheduled to make our submission at 11.45am on 10 June.

We intend to draw on points provided as advice earlier in the process and now proactively released, and also our comment in the Strategy Monitoring Report indicating the importance of an enduring approach for consenting of infrastructure. Our previous advice recommended a narrower purpose focused on the public benefits of infrastructure, appropriately weighing up enabling provisions with environmental management, and expert panels as final decision-makers. Paul Alexander (Director, Policy) will present to the Committee, along with another (to be confirmed).

Barbara Tebbs, General Manager Policy

2.3. Next steps on infrastructure national direction

We are working with MfE and MBIE to develop advice on the scope of any new infrastructure national policy statement and national environmental standards to be delivered as part of the 2024/25 integrated national direction programme. This advice will expand on options presented in a previous Aide Memoire from MfE and Te Waihanga (BRF-4785) now that resources are known. (The Aide Memoire was provided to your office ahead of your 28 May meeting with Under Secretary Court, but this meeting was cancelled.)

The briefing will go to you, Minister Brown and Under Secretary Court, given your respective responsibilities for the emerging national direction work programme. MfE is leading, and we understand the briefing is likely to be delivered in the coming week.

Barbara Tebbs, General Manager Policy

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)
Webinar: Understanding the impact of infrastructure charges on households	7 June	Pre-release webinar for core infrastructure central government agencies about research into the impact of how changes to the way we pay for infrastructure affect different households. This is the final research in our deep dive into what's fair when it comes to paying for infrastructure.
Environment Select Committee Oral Submission on Fast Track Approvals Bill	10 June 11.45am-12pm	The Commission has accepted the Committee's invitation to provide an oral submission.
Webinar: Understanding the impact of infrastructure charges on households	10 June	As per the item above, this pre-release webinar is for other interested central government agencies, local government, and other key stakeholders.
IPANZ-hosted webinar: What's fair when it comes to paying for infrastructure	11 June	To coincide with release of the reports, members of the team will be presenting findings and insights from the full research programme.
Infrastructure New Zealand AGM	11 June	Ross Copland will be speaking at this event about the National Infrastructure Plan and other priority issues.
Transportation Group Conference	12 June	Nadine Dodge, Principal Economist will be speaking at this event about the national infrastructure plan and the Commission's research on fairness.
Auckland-based Infrastructure Leaders Network Meet-Up (Commission event)	14 June (8am-12pm)	This event will be based on the successful format of the inaugural Meet-up in Wellington in February. The Minister and US Court are both attending. We are working with your offices to support your attendance.
Local Government New Zealand Infrastructure Symposium	14 June	Peter Nunns, Director – Economics, will present findings of some of our recent research, including infrastructure pricing.
Bridging the Infrastructure Gap: Funding and financing for a resilient Aotearoa New Zealand	26 June, 5.30-8pm	Ross Copland will be on a panel at this event, which is to be hosted in the Banquet Hall at Parliament. The focus of the event is the launch of a report by WSP in collaboration with the Helen Clark Foundation.
Quarry NZ Conference	18 July	Ross Copland will be speaking at this event and sharing the Commission's work on aggregate modelling.
Building Nations 2024 (Infrastructure NZ annual conference)	28-29 August	Ross Copland will be on a panel to discuss <i>Uplifting Public Sector Procurement and Delivery Capability</i>

Anna Moodie, General Manager Operations

3. Upcoming advice

3.1. Upcoming briefings and aides memoire for the Minister

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

Topic and tracking number	Date due to your office	What this advice covers	Deadline for Minister’s feedback
Building Together conference on 6 June [TW-2024-420]	Sent 4 June	Minter Ellison has organised this conference. You and Hon Willis were on a panel to discuss procurement and funding models, construction and infrastructure priorities. This aide memoire provides context and talking points.	6 June
Update on the purpose, scope and deliverables for the National Infrastructure Plan [TW-2024-419]	Sent 5 June	This update was requested by you on 27 May. It includes an updated stump speech on the NIP for use in a range of upcoming events.	n/a
Comments on the draft Waitematā Harbour Connections Cabinet paper [TW-2024-424]	Sent 6 June	Provides feedback to inform Ministerial consultation on the draft Cabinet paper, which is due to be lodged on 13 June. Your comments are due by 11 June.	11 June
Speech notes and background information for the NZIQS Conference on 13 June [TW-2024-422]	Sent 6 June	We are coordinating with MBIE to prepare speech notes, Q&As and other background information for this event. You and Minister Penk are both speaking at this event.	13 June

Topic and tracking number	Date due to your office	What this advice covers	Deadline for Minister's feedback
Infrastructure Leaders Network meet up in Auckland on 14 June	11 June	Background information and talking points for your attendance at this second INL meeting in Auckland (building on the earlier ILN meet-up in Wellington)	14 June
Meeting with Downer CE	17 June	Background information for your meeting with the Downer CE and others on 19 June at 4pm.	19 June
Next steps on infrastructure national direction	tbc	Joint briefing from TW, MfE and MBIE officials to the Ministers of/for RMA Reform, Infrastructure, Local Government and Undersecretary Court setting out proposed next steps for the national direction work programme.	tbc

Briefings re reports and publications

Research reports on water and transport pricing [TW-2024-423]	Sent 6 June	This aide memoire will outline key findings from two research reports that consider how Infrastructure Strategy recommendations about transport pricing (congestion pricing/road tolls) and water pricing (volumetric charging/metering) may affect these sectors' performance against the best practice pricing principles outlined in the PwC Infrastructure Pricing Study. These papers are signalled in an aide memoire delivered 23 April [TW-2024-393 refers].	For publication in June (tbc)
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3.2. Upcoming briefings and aides memoire for the Parliamentary Under-Secretary

We provide advice to Mr Court in line with his delegations from the Minister – both proactively and in response to requests from him. All advice to Mr Court is copied to the Minister.

Topic and tracking number	Date due to your office	What this advice covers	Deadline for US's feedback
Infrastructure Leaders Network meet up in Auckland on 14 June	11 June	Background information and talking points for your attendance at this second INL meeting in Auckland (building on the earlier ILN meet-up in Wellington)	14 June

Next steps on infrastructure national direction	tbc	Joint briefing from TW, MfE and MBIE officials to the Ministers of/for RMA Reform, Infrastructure, Local Government and Undersecretary Court setting out proposed next steps for the national direction work programme.	tbc
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3.3. 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
Final SPE	Before 30 June	Provides the Commission’s Statement of Performance Expectations, including outputs, outcomes and measures	N/A
Q4 Quarterly Report	End of July	Provides an update of our progress on key aspects of our work programme, and performance against the SPE.	N/A
Annual report	tbc		tbc


3.4. 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
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s9(2)(g)(i)				
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s9(2)(g)(i)



3.5. 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
None				

3.6. 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 due to send
7 May	s9(2)(a)	Copies of specific briefings provided to the Minister for Infrastructure - transferred from the office of the Minister for Infrastructure [OIA24-CB109] Draft reply sent to Minister's office for feedback on 23 May.	Sent 31 May
23 May	s9(2)(a)	Any advice the Infrastructure Commission has given regarding work on a Waitemata Harbour Crossing, from October 2023 to present	21 June

3.7. Upcoming Ministerial meetings

Where requested, we provide support for meetings the Minister is attending.

Meeting	Meeting date	Who will be attending/presenting	Comment / action	TW lead
Going for Housing Growth meeting	10 June, 6pm	Geoff Cooper and Peter Nunns to attend.	Agenda tbc	
Quantity Surveyors conference	13 June, 9.30am	Ministers Bishop and Penk	Minister to deliver keynote and participate on a panel with Hon Penk. We have provided an aide memoire with speech notes; MBIE is	Simon Thomas

Meeting	Meeting date	Who will be attending/presenting	Comment / action	TW lead
			coordinating Q&As with input from us.	
Tasman Business Circle lunch	13 June, 12.30pm	Minister Bishop	Minister will give a 15 minute speech across all his portfolios. Will use latest speech material provided by TW. Office to advise.	
LGNZ Infrastructure Symposium networking function	13 June, 5.30pm	Minister Bishop	Talking points etc tbc.	
Infrastructure Leaders Network event in Auckland	14 June, 10.30am	Minister Bishop and US Court both attending.	We will provide an aide memoire and talking points.	Nicola Richardson
Russell McVeagh board series	12-2pm	Minister Bishop	Nothing needed – but office will confirm	
Property Council New Zealand Rider Levett Bucknall Property Industry Awards 2024	14 June, evening	Minister – not speaking but presenting an award. Rt Hons Luxon and Peters and Hons Penk, Seymour and McAnulty have also been invited.	HUD has asked us to contribute to a background aide memoire and talking points	HUD is leading
Infrastructure officials meeting	17 June, 3-4pm			
Estimates select committee hearing	18 June, 2.30pm	Ross Copland and Raveen Jaduan	Tsy is coordinating a briefing for the Minister. We have provided draft responses to questionnaires.	Anna Moodie
Going for Housing Growth meeting	18 June, 4.30pm	Geoff Cooper and Peter Nunns to attend.	Agenda tbc	

Meeting	Meeting date	Who will be attending/presenting	Comment / action	TW lead
Monthly meeting Minister Bishop/US Court	18 June, 6.30pm	Minister, US Court, MfE and InfraCom officials as required	Agenda tbc	
Infrastructure and Investment Ministers Meeting	18 June, 7pm	Ministers Willis, Bishop, Brown, Jones, US Court, officials		
Meeting with Downers	19 June, 4pm	Minister Bishop and CE of Downers	We will prepare a background briefing.	
Three-monthly meeting: Ministers Bishop and Brown	19 June, 5pm	Ministers Bishop and Brown, Ross Copland	We will provide background information and attend as required.	
RMA Ministerial Group	19 June, 7.30-8.30pm	Ministers and US Court. Barbara Tebbs and Paul Alexander to attend for InfraCom		
Telecommunications Forum	20 June, 2.30pm	Minister Bishop	Agenda likely to focus on RMA (MfE lead), critical infrastructure resilience (DPMC lead).	
Officials meeting	25 June, 9am			
Housing Ministerial Group	25 June, 7.30pm	Hons Willis, Upston, Potaka, Penk and US Court. Geoff Cooper to attend for InfraCom	tbc	
Meeting with Minister Brown and Fletchers	26 June, 12pm	Hons Bishop, Brown and officials (tbc)	We will contribute to a background briefing as required.	
Property Institute speech	26 June, 5.30pm	Minister Bishop	Liz to commission – 10-15min speech and Q&A	
RMA Ministerial Group	26 June, 7pm	Ministers and US Court. Barbara Tebbs and Paul Alexander to attend for InfraCom	Tbc	
Meeting with Meridian re fast track consenting	27 June, 3.30pm	Tbc	We will contribute to a background briefing as required.	

Meeting	Meeting date	Who will be attending/presenting	Comment / action	TW lead
Going for Housing Growth meeting	27 June, 4.15pm	Geoff Cooper and Peter Nunns to attend.	Agenda tbc	
Fortnightly meeting: InfraCom Chair and Minister	1 July, tbc	Regular fortnightly 1:1 (ahead of standing officials meeting)		

3.8. Upcoming meetings for the Parliamentary Under-Secretary

Where requested, we provide support for meetings US Court is attending.

Meeting	Meeting date	Who will be attending/presenting	Comment / action
Infrastructure Leaders Network event in Auckland	14 June, 10.30am	Minister Bishop and US Court both attending.	We will provide an aide memoire and talking points.
Civil Contractors NZ (CCNZ) Auckland AGM	17 June	US Court	We will provide an aide memoire and talking points.
Monthly meeting Minister Bishop/US Court	18 June, 6.30pm	Minister, US Court, MfE and InfraCom officials as required	Agenda tbc
Infrastructure and Investment Ministers Meeting	18 June, 7pm	Ministers Willis, Bishop, Brown, Jones, US Court, officials	Papers will be circulated by the Tsy Secretariat.
Housing Ministerial Group (tbc)	25 June, 7.30pm	Hons Willis, Upston, Potaka, Penk and US Court. Geoff Cooper to attend for InfraCom	Tbc
RMA Ministerial Group	26 June, 7pm	Ministers and US Court. Barbara Tebbs and Paul Alexander to attend for InfraCom	Tbc

[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
Māori engagement in Infrastructure	Research report	W/C 10 June 2024	This work aims to deliver on a recommendation in the New Zealand Infrastructure Strategy for ‘a ‘state of play’ of Māori engagement for infrastructure’. It includes both a report into Māori engagement on projects initiated by infrastructure providers as well as a summary of the history of Māori experiences of infrastructure.
What’s fair when it comes to paying for infrastructure? Insights and findings	Research report	11 June 2024	Final report as part of the ‘deep dive’ research programme examining what’s fair when it comes to paying for infrastructure. Report will summarise key insights and findings from across the research programme.
Understanding how infrastructure charges affect households	Research report	11 June 2024	Third and final research report associated with the “what’s fair” deep dive research programme. This report is written primarily for officials and focusses on the importance of undertaking distributional analysis when making policy decisions about the structure of infrastructure charges. Technical appendices which support this research will also be released at this time.
Water metering and leakage	Research report	Week of 24 June 2024	Examines the economic and societal benefits of using water metering and volumetric charging to help solve water network-related challenges.
Transport pricing case studies	Research report	Week of 24 June 2024	This looks at experience of tolling, congestion charging and other forms of pricing and demand management.
Transparency response paper	Response to research	July 2024	This report analyses the possible actions the Government could make in response to the Infrastructure Commission’s work on transparency in projects. A briefing on this was provided to the Minister on 26 March [TW-2024-339 refers].

Taking care of Tomorrow Today: An Asset Management State of Play	Research report	July 2024	This paper outlines how mature our asset management tools and processes are across different infrastructure sectors, and provides recommendations to improve public sector asset management.
Introducing water meters	Case studies	July 2024	Includes foreword from us, followed by case studies and reflections on introducing water metering commissioned from Pat Dougherty, Director Wellington Water. These are about his experiences introducing water metering in Kapiti and Nelson.

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