

# Infrastructure weekly update

For the week starting 4 March 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	Set up meeting with Transmission Gully reviewers	Minister/ TW	22 Dec	Briefing delivered 14 December [TW-2023-308]. Meeting with reviewers scheduled for 6 March has been deferred – new date pending.
11 December	[REDACTED]	TW s9(2)(g)(i)	asap	Pending
24 January	Provide a briefing on CO(23)9	TW	tbc	Updating post TSY briefing re IMS
29 January	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

## 2. Key issues and updates

### 2.1. 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)
Engineering NZ - Transportation Group	6 March	Lunchtime session on congestion charging. Peter Nunns, Director – Economics, will be speaking about congestion charging and moving from ‘why’ to ‘how’.
Te Waihanga session at Auckland Policy Office for central and local government stakeholders (Ministry of Transport, NZTA, Kainga Ora, MBIE, Crown Infrastructure Partners, Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and Watercare)	6 March	Presentation drilling down into several pieces of our published research to provide Auckland-focused insights. Presentation by summer intern Nicholas Goodman (University of Auckland) with Jane Godfrey, Senior Advisor Strategy, and Peter Nunns, Director – Economics, in attendance to answer questions and discuss next steps.
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



		• [REDACTED]	
		s9(2)(f)(iv)	
Plan for development of the 30-year infrastructure plan	28 March	Will set out a project plan detailing actions and milestones for development of the 30-year infrastructure plan.	n/a
Overview of Cabinet Office circular CO(23)9	On hold	On 24 January, the Minister requested an overview of this circular entitled: <i>Investment Management and Asset Performance in Departments and Other Entities</i> . We are coordinating with the Treasury on timing and scope of this advice.	n/a
<b>Briefings re reports and publications</b>			
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
Infrastructure Strategy Monitoring Report	End of March/early April	Reports on progress in delivering actions and outcomes signalled in the NZ Infrastructure Strategy.	For release and discussion at the May Symposium

### 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. See a summary of our feedback to the Ministry of Transport in last week's status report (for the week beg 19 Feb).	16 February	ECO	To go to ECO on 28 February
Minister for Climate Change	Establishment of an ad-hoc Select Committee for climate adaptation	To be lodged 22 Feb	LEG	To go to LEG on 29 February
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
			s9(2)(g)(i)	

### 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] s9(2)(a)	Correspondence between the Minister for Infrastructure's office and the Infrastructure Commission in January 2024 re: infrastructure projects, initiatives, or policy developments; funding allocations, budgetary considerations, or financial matters; upcoming release of documents and reports; requests for information, data, or analysis.	4 March 2024	11 March 2024
29 February	[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)	Request for a number of specific briefings provided to the Minister for Infrastructure between 1 December 2023 and 15 February 2024	18 March 2024	25 March 2024

### 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] s9(2)(g)(i)
9 February	[Redacted] s9(2)(a)	Correspondence received since 1 December 2023 from Minister/s re the fiscal sustainability programme, including any savings required by us; Any letters of expectation or guidance from Te Kawa Mataaho received since 1 December 2023 re change management or employment relations.	1 March	8 March 2024
21 February	[Redacted] s9(2)(a)	Advice from the Infrastructure Commission to Auckland Light Rail Ltd from its establishment in October 2022 to present, as well as its predecessor the Auckland Light Rail Establishment Unit from March 2021-October 2022.	13 March	20 March 2024

### 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
Meeting with Under-Sec Court to discuss RM reform and quick wins re infrastructure national direction	5 March	Ministry for the Environment and Infrastructure Commission officials	Meeting requested at RM Ministers meeting on 20 February. Minister's and Mr Court's office to organise.
Minister's travel to London to meet with UK infrastructure leaders	15-18 March	Ross Copland will attend some of the London meetings and events (tbc)	We are providing background briefings on 1 and 4 March, and supporting briefings from other agencies.

Request for meeting with Minister of Transport to discuss the draft GPS on land transport	tbc	Infrastructure Commission officials (tbc). May be an opportunity to discuss a range of transport matters in addition to the GPS.	Minister Brown has requested this meeting to discuss feedback we provided to Ministry of Transport officials on 15 February. We have referred this request to the Minister's office.
Request for meeting with the Minister of Regional Development to discuss infrastructure-related aspects of RM reform	tbc	Infrastructure Commission officials – Alan Bollard, Ross Copland	Meeting requested following RM Ministers meeting on 20 February. Minister's office to organise.
Climate Priorities Ministers Group	March/April (tbc)	PM, Ministers of Climate Change, Finance, Infrastructure, Energy, Transport, Local Government, Agriculture, Forestry, Trade, Foreign Affairs and others tbc	This is the first meeting of this Group, which is chaired by the PM. Indicative agenda items include: terms of ref for the Group; overview of domestic and international obligations; draft Roadmap to 2050; progress to develop an adaptation framework for NZ.

[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
Local government financing in New Zealand (Research Insights paper)	Research Insight	March	<p>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.</p> <p>An aide memoire providing a heads-up on this work was provided to the Minister on 19 December [TW-2023-332 refers].</p>
Asset management maturity across the public sector	Research report	March/April 2024	<p>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.</p>
Potential sites for aggregate extraction in fast growing regions	Research report	April 2024	<p>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.</p>

Māori engagement in Infrastructure	Research report	May	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.
Approaches to Infrastructure Pricing Study	Research Insight	Q2	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.
Transmission Gully post-construction review	Project review	Q1/Q2 2024	In August 2020, the Government directed us to oversee an independent review of how the Transmission Gully Project was commissioned. When this was released in April 2021, we were instructed to do a further review once the project was complete. While we expected to have the review finalised in late 2022, the project's construction is not yet technically complete. However, the post-construction review is ready for publication if/when the Minister agrees. A briefing on this was provided to the Minister on 14 December [TW-2023-308 refers].
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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.
Paying for infrastructure – Deep dive topic	Research report	Q2 2024	Final report of deep dive summarising key findings and recommendations from project and supplementary reports.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Monitoring progress  
against Infrastructure  
Strategy

Monitoring report

Q2 2024

This report will show progress against the New Zealand Infrastructure Strategy's 68 recommendations. This report will meet the monitoring requirements spelled out in our SPE.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

s9(2)(g)(i)