

Infrastructure weekly update

For the week starting 26 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	[Redacted]	[Redacted] s9(2)(f)(iv)
11 December	[Redacted] s9(2)(g)(i)	TW	asap	Pending
[Redacted]	[Redacted] s9(2)(g)(i)	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted] s9(2)(g)(i)
29 January	[Redacted] s9(2)(g)(i)	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

2. Key issues and updates

2.1. Enhancing the resilience of New Zealand’s critical infrastructure

Because of its fundamental importance to our infrastructure system, we are working closely with the DPMC-led work programme to define critical infrastructure and establish a regulatory framework to enhance its resilience. Specifically, we are contributing to the advisory and governance groups and have a staff member seconded into the DPMC team.

We have three actions under the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), two of which relate to strengthening and clarifying processes for assessing natural hazard risks for critical infrastructure. We are working closely with the DPMC team on the delivery of these actions.

There is a strong relationship between infrastructure risk assessment, asset management, investment planning, and national direction on managing hazards. As the critical infrastructure resilience work programme and these interconnections become clearer, we will brief you in more detail, including on any changes to the scope and timeframes of the NAP actions.

Responsible GM: Barbara Tebbs

2.2. Resource Management Reform update

The Commission continues to engage on Fast Track Consenting. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(f)(iv)

We are providing Under-Secretary Court with further background material on options to progress infrastructure national direction and standards, based on the infrastructure content developed for the proposed National Planning Framework. In conjunction with MfE, we can provide input into the early thinking about the architecture of Phase 3 of your reforms to develop RMA replacement legislation.

Responsible GM: Barbara Tebbs

2.3. 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)
Maritime NZ Board Meeting	27 February	Barbara Tebbs, General Manager Policy, will be contributing (along with senior managers from MBIE Energy and 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

3.2. 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]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

s9(2)(g)(i)

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 Minister to discuss housing matters	22 February	Infrastructure Commission officials – Geoff Cooper, Peter Nunns	
Meeting with Under-Sec Court to discuss infrastructure funding and financing	26 February, 2.30-3.30pm	Infrastructure Commission officials – Geoff Cooper, Brendan Herder, Graham Campbell	Meeting requested by Mr Court.
Housing and Infrastructure Ministers Group	26 February	tbc	Office to confirm if any advice is required from the Commission.
Meeting with Under-Sec Court to discuss RM reform and quick wins re infrastructure national direction	tbc	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.
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
<i>Build or maintain? New Zealand’s infrastructure asset values, investment, and depreciation, 1990-2022</i>	Research insight	23 February (embargoed release to media on 22 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

