

Infrastructure weekly update

For the week starting 9 December 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
None				

2. Key issues and updates

2.1. National Infrastructure Plan

Plan development – Quality Review Panel

We have established the Quality Review Panel, which will review our work on the Plan at three key stages (detailed plan outline, draft Plan, and final Plan). We have four external reviewers who meet to discuss the detailed plan outline on 16 December:

- Tracey Kai, CE, Electricity Networks Association
- Nick Leggett, CE, Infrastructure NZ
- Dr Kerry Bobbins, Head of Enabling Better Infrastructure programme at ICE, UK
- Kerry Fowlie, Director Economic Strategy, Treasury. ICE is the Institute of Civil Engineers, UK

Engagement on the Discussion Document

We continue to engage on the discussion document, 'Testing our thinking: Developing an enduring National Infrastructure Plan' and encourage people to submit feedback through our Information Supply Platform by the 10 December deadline.

On 3 December we held a workshop with senior leaders from Engineering New Zealand, Āpōpō, Water New Zealand and ACE New Zealand to test our emerging thinking, but also to share some of our insights from the regional workshops.

A number of one-on-one stakeholder meetings are being organised following the workshops to provide additional information about the development of the Plan. Views and insights received through the workshops and stakeholder meetings will be included in the analysis of the feedback to the discussion document.

Infrastructure Needs Analysis – International benchmarking of infrastructure

We have completed data collection and initial analysis for the road transport and the electricity generation, transmission and distribution sectors.

This analysis looks at how New Zealand compares to similar countries in terms of the spend on, and stock of, infrastructure, its usage as well as available measure of quality and outcomes. We are collecting data on as wide a group of countries as possible given available data. We have identified a group of comparator countries with similar incomes, population and/or geographic factors to New Zealand.

The benchmarking of education and health infrastructure is underway, to be followed by telecommunications and water and waste infrastructure.

We will share our preliminary work with you as part of your summer reading pack. Further analysis will be done in the new year, with the results at the end of March 2025 to feed into the draft NIP document.

Infrastructure Priorities Programme

We have attached a summary of the engagement that has taken place with central government entities on the Infrastructure Priorities Programme (see Appendix C). s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

The deadline for Round 1 applications is 20 December 2024. The Round 2 deadline is 17 April 2025. Applications received in both rounds will be eligible to be included in the National Infrastructure Plan.

Peter Nunns, Acting General Manager, Strategy

2.2. 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)
Preparing your IPP application - AMA	10 December	This is a webinar for potential submitters to help them prepare applications. This is part of a series of webinars being led by our IPP team.
Briefing for Civil Contractors NZ re the NIP	10 December	Geoff Cooper, CE, and Peter Nunns, Acting GM Strategy, will provide an overview of the National Infrastructure Plan for Alan Pollard and Fraser May from CCNZ.
Transport Knowledge Conference in Wellington	11 December	Geoff Cooper, CE, is presenting on the National Infrastructure Plan and some of the Commission's recent research.
Briefing for Transport and Infrastructure Committee	12 December	We have accepted an invitation to brief the Committee on aspects of their inquiry into the Northland RONS.
Āpōpō Congress	12 December	Geoff Cooper, CE to present and give a short Q&A.
Follow up meetings with Green Party MPs on the National Infrastructure Plan	Late January / February (tbc)	We provided an initial briefing on the NIP to Green Party MPs on 15 October. They have asked for a follow up meeting in the New Year so that they can keep across this work.
2023/24 Annual Review hearing	30 January 2025	Geoff Cooper (CE) and Raveen Jaduram (Chair) will attend this hearing with the Transport and Infrastructure Committee.
Building and Construction Sector Event	18 February 2025	Geoff Cooper, CE, will be the guest speaker at 'Industry Pace' that is a networking event hosted by Carter Holt Harvey and J. A. Russell for a cross-section of industry stakeholders. There will be about 150 people at the event, which will be at the Ellerslie Event Centre in Auckland.
Infrastructure Resilience Conference	18 March 2025	Peter Nunns (Acting GM – Strategy) has been asked to speak at the 'resilience in interconnected infrastructure networks' session for Infrastructure New Zealand's Infrastructure Resilience Conference.

Event	Event date	Description (attending/presenting/purpose)
Infrastructure Commission Symposium	25 June 2025	We will be holding our annual symposium in the Beehive Banquet Hall on this date. We will be confirming speakers over the coming months.

Caine Garrity, Acting 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
Briefing on the National Infrastructure Plan	19 December	This will provide a detailed outline for the National Infrastructure Plan, with an update on progress to date across each of the workstreams.	tbc
Briefings re reports and publications			
Report on Aucklanders and their infrastructure [TW-2024-522]	Sent 5 December	This provides an overview of a report we intend to publish by the end of the year. Using recently published research, this report will drill down into several pieces of our published research to provide Auckland-focused insights.	9 December

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
None			

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
Quarterly Report Q2	Before 31 January 2025	Quarterly Performance Reporting as required under the Owners Expectations issued by The Treasury. The report summarises performance against the Commission's Statement of Performance Expectations, highlights major achievements for the quarter, identifies the cause of any major variances, provides an outlook of performance to the end of the year, and signals any developing issues and emerging risks and opportunities.	Reporting for the period October-December 2024 is due no later than 31 January 2025.

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
s9(2)(g)(i)				

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s9(2)(g)(i)				

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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
Your office requested Health NZ coordinate a joint release with input from the Ministry of Health, Tsy and Te Waihanga	n/a	Proactive release of advice about New Dunedin Hospital	TW's redacted docs sent to Health NZ on 23 October Full bundle sent to joint Ministers for feedback on 14 Nov	tbc

Date received from your office	Correspondent	Description of request	Date due to Minister	Date due to send
11 November	s9(2)(a)	Treasury lead - Copies of specified papers from Treasury, Rau Paenga and Infracom	Sent to Treasury on 20 November	9 December
22 November		Treasury lead - Copies of specified papers from Treasury, Infracom and Health NZ	Sent to Treasury on 22 November	18 December
28 November		Treasury lead - Copies of specified papers from Treasury and Infracom	Sent to Treasury on 4 December	17 January

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
n/a	n/a	Proactive release of advice about the NIP	With your office for review
n/a	n/a	Proactive release of advice about the PPP policy work	Has been reviewed by your office. With agencies for final check.
18 November	s9(2)(a)	Information about Infracom's parental leave policy and entitlements	Sent 4 December
28 November		Infracom's correspondence with CIAL and information on Tarras/Central Otago Airport project	17 January

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
Accelerated delivery strategy for Northland RONS	10 December, 9am	Joint Ministers – Hons Willis, Jones, Bishop, Goldsmith and US Court	Briefing requirements tbc	

Meeting	Meeting date	Who will be attending/presenting	Comment / action	TW lead
3-monthly meeting with Minister Brown	11 December, 11:50am-12:10pm	Minister Brown, Geoff Cooper (CE), Andy Hagan	Agenda tbc. MOT has been asked to provide a background briefing.	Geoff Cooper
Monthly meeting between the Minister and US Court	12 December, 4-4.30pm	Minister Bishop and US Court, officials tbc	Agenda tbc	Andy Hagan / Barbara Tebbs
Weekly infrastructure officials meeting	16 December, 4-5pm	Minister, infrastructure officials	Agenda tbc	Geoff Cooper
Climate Adaptation Framework meeting	17 December, 5-5:45pm	tbc	Office to advise if meeting is going ahead and any briefing requirements	Barbara Tebbs

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	TW lead
Monthly meeting between the Minister and US Court	12 December, 4-4.30pm	Minister Bishop and US Court, officials tbc	Agenda tbc	Andy Hagan / Barbara Tebbs

[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
Aucklanders and their infrastructure	Research report	Week of 16 December	Using recently published research, this report will drill down into several pieces of our published research to provide Auckland-focused insights. [TW-2024-522 refers.]
Māori engagement across the infrastructure system	Research report	Week of 16 December	This report looks at Māori involvement the sector in investment, as suppliers, in the infrastructure workforce and as users of infrastructure. [TW-2024-516 refers.]
Delivering better value and better outcomes: changing practices in infrastructure delivery	Delivery guidance	January 2025	Based on best international practice, this report points to ‘lowest price tender’ as generally giving poor long-term outcomes where major projects are concerned. And highlights some delivery principles that will help government become a better infrastructure client when conceiving, designing and building major infrastructure projects.
Towards better contracts	Delivery guidance	January 2025	Contracts express and drive the relationship between client and delivery partner/s, and as such are a cornerstone of good projects. This report looks at New Zealand government contracting practice and the relationships this drives/supports from the perspective of a number of different agents: client, engineer, lawyer, contractor, etc – highlighting what they’ve said in structured interviews about this.
Insurance of infrastructure against natural disasters	Research Insight	January 2025	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. [TW-2024-514 refers.]

Appendix B: Key milestones for the National Infrastructure Plan

Date	Deliverable	Detail	Current Status
November 2024	Discussion Document: Testing our thinking: Developing an enduring National Infrastructure Plan	Initial engagement to test early thinking on the Plan, seek information from the sector that we can use to shape the Plan, and provide early public visibility to the proposed approach. This continues the conversation from the Infrastructure Strategy and the Commission's research programme.	The Discussion Document was released on 5 November and engagement will end on 10 December. The feedback will be analysed and reported late January/ early February 2025.
Late-November 2024	Draft plan outline	Outline for the structure of the Plan including early thinking on key issues.	A draft outline is provided in the weekly report to the Minister (28 November 2024) and will be subsequently discussed with Treasury.
September to December 2024	Background reports for Infrastructure Needs Analysis	Technical reports to inform the development of the Infrastructure Needs Analysis.	A draft background report on insurance against natural hazards has been provided to the Minister and will be released in early 2025.
December 2024	Detailed Plan outline	More detailed outline on the approach to be taken to the drafting of the Plan, with workstream updates.	Work is underway on all workstreams to enable a detailed plan outline to be produced for the Minister's summer bag.
February to April 2025	Stakeholder and public engagement	Reporting on the outcomes of engagement on the discussion document. Targeted stakeholder engagement to continue to test our thinking. Public engagement to raise awareness and validate challenges and issues before consultation on the draft Plan.	Phase 2 of the engagement is currently being scoped.
February/March 2025	Early findings and preliminary recommendations	Early findings and preliminary recommendations will be discussed with the Infrastructure Commission Board and the Minister.	
March/April 2025	Infrastructure Priorities Programme Assessment (Phase 1)	First phase of assessments provided to the Minister and then published on the Commission's website	
March/April 2025	Further findings and developed recommendations	More detailed findings and developed recommendations will be discussed with the Infrastructure Commission Board and the Minister.	
May 2025	Draft plan for informal review	Draft of the plan provided to the Minister on a "no surprises" basis for informal review.	
End of June 2025	Draft plan for Minister's feedback and public consultation	Draft plan approved by the Infrastructure Commission Board, provided to the Minister for formal feedback, and released for public consultation.	
July/August 2025	Public consultation period	6 week public consultation period.	
August/September 2025	Infrastructure Priorities Programme Assessment (Phase 2)	Second phase of assessments provided to the Minister and then published on the Commission's website	
September 2025	Outcomes of consultation	Analysis of the outcomes of public consultation.	
End September 2025	Minister's feedback	Minister provides written feedback on the draft plan.	
Mid-November 2025	Update on final plan	Draft of the plan provided to the Minister on a "no surprises" basis.	
December 2025	Final plan	Final plan published and provided to the Minister to table in Parliament.	
Early 2026	Government response	Government formally responds to the Plan.	

Appendix C is withheld in full under s9(2)(g)(i)