

# Infrastructure weekly update

For the week starting 1 April 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 now scheduled for 15 April.
11 December	[REDACTED]	TW s9(2)(g)(i)	asap	Pending
29 January	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
25 March	Prepare a paper for the first joint Infrastructure Ministers group meeting on 9 April, on next steps for agency input to the 30-year plan	TW	28 March	Pending

## 2. Key issues and updates

### 2.1. Upcoming reports as part of the ‘What’s Fair’ deep dive work programme

Over the next few weeks, you will receive three aides memoire advising you of our intention to publish a series of papers associated with our ‘What’s Fair?’ deep dive work programme, including the final report with our findings. These papers are listed in item 3.1 below. They build on the [insights report](#) we published in February 2024 setting out findings from a Kantar survey that asked about 3,000 Kiwis what they think is a fair way to pay for infrastructure [TW-2023-313 refers].

In the ‘What’s Fair?’ work programme we have sought to better understand how New Zealanders think about fairness in the context of infrastructure services, how well the current infrastructure system achieves outcomes that are perceived as fair, and what could be done differently in the future to meet our infrastructure challenges in a way that New Zealanders can accept as being fair. In line with the Infrastructure Strategy, this work focuses on questions of funding and pricing – who pays, how they pay, and how much they pay. The project also concentrates on four networked infrastructure services that most, if not all, New Zealanders use every day – drinking water, electricity, telecommunications, and land transport.

*Geoff Cooper, General Manager Strategy*

### 2.2. Development of the National Infrastructure Plan



s9(2)(f)(iv)

We are working across government agencies and the infrastructure sector on scoping the National Infrastructure Plan. We’ll provide an update in next week’s report on our process and time frames for providing a more detailed project plan.

*Geoff Cooper, General Manager Strategy*

### 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)
OECD Infrastructure Week, Paris	8-12 April	Includes PPP network and inaugural meeting of OECD Delivery network. Richard Wall, senior advisor attending in person.
Combined Local Government Sector Meeting – LGNZ	11 April	Geoff Cooper, General Manager Strategy, will be speaking about the National Infrastructure Plan and Infrastructure Priority List

Metro Sector Panel Discussion – LGNZ	12 April	Geoff Cooper, General Manager Strategy, will join other panellists to discuss local government financing.
IPWEA International Public Works Conference	30 April – 3 May	Ross Copland, Chief Executive, will be presenting at this event.
Infrastructure Commission Symposium	9 May	A number of Commission staff will be speaking about their research and findings.
Wellington Regional Leadership Committee Seminar	15 May	Geoff Cooper, General Manager Strategy, will be presenting on findings from some of the Commission’s recent research.
Āpōpō Congress on Asset Management	21 and 22 May	Peter Nunns, Director – Economics, will be presenting on findings from some of Commission’s recent research on 21 May. On 22 May, Ross Copland, Chief Executive, will be moderating a discussion panel.
Auckland-based Infrastructure Leaders Network Meet-Up	14 June (8am-12pm)	This event will be based on the successful format of the inaugural Meet-up in Wellington in February. We are working with your offices on whether you would be available to attend/speak.

Responsible GM: Anna Moodie

## 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 <a href="#">tracking number</a>	Date due to your office	What this advice covers	Deadline for Minister’s feedback
Plan for development of the 30-year infrastructure plan	Update to be provided next week	Will set out a project plan detailing actions and milestones for development of the 30-year infrastructure plan.	n/a
Information required to support development of the National Infrastructure Plan [TW-2024-379]	Sent 27 March	[REDACTED]	9 April s9(2)(f)(iv)
Meeting with Equity AI	5 April	Equity AI is meeting with you on 9 April to discuss Big Data, affordable housing and New Zealand.	9 April
<b>Briefings re reports and publications</b>			
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)
Three technical papers to support the ‘What’s Fair’ deep dive work programme	2 April	Informs you of our plan to publish three technical papers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income elasticity of demand for infrastructure</li> <li>Drivers of infrastructure spend</li> <li>Māori infrastructure expenditure</li> </ul>	For publication the week beg 15 April

Access and quality of four networked infrastructure services - a component of the 'What's Fair' deep dive work programme.	15 April	Informs you of our plan to publish a paper that sets out information from a range of sources about access to and quality of four networked infrastructure services across New Zealand.	For publication the week beg 29 April
Policy papers relating to the 'What's Fair' deep dive work programme	6 May	Informs you of our plan to publish three policy papers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy implications paper – <i>How various funding policies affect households across different income levels</i></li> <li>• Pricing policy simulations</li> <li>• Final report – <i>Paying for infrastructure: What's fair? Insights, findings and recommendations</i></li> </ul>	For publication the week beg 20 May
Approaches to infrastructure pricing – research report	May	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. 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.

<b>Topic and <a href="#">tracking number</a></b>	<b>Date due to your office</b>	<b>What this advice covers</b>	<b>Deadline for US's feedback</b>
Meeting with Mafic Partners [TW-2024-376]	Sent 25 March	Background information to support your meeting with Mafic Partners on 3 April.	3 April

### 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
Infrastructure Strategy Monitoring Report	Early April	Reports on progress in delivering actions and outcomes signalled in the NZ Infrastructure Strategy.	For release and discussion at the May Symposium
Third quarter report for 2023/24	30 April	Reports on progress against measures in the Commission's Statement of Performance Expectations for 2023/24	N/A

### 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
[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)

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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
29 February	[REDACTED]	Request for a number of specific briefings provided to the Minister for Infrastructure between 1 December 2023 and 15 February 2024	Sent 14 March 2024	25 March 2024
1 March	[REDACTED]	Request for 2 specific briefings provided to the Minister for Infrastructure dated 19 February disclosed under WPQ 927 (2024)	Sent 8 March 2024	28 March 2024
5 March	[REDACTED]	Request for a number of specific briefings provided to the Minister for Infrastructure between 19-27 February disclosed under WPQ 1189 (2024)	Sent 21 March 2024	3 April 2024
27 March	[REDACTED]	Request for a number of specific briefings provided to the Minister for Infrastructure between 29 February-6 March as disclosed under WPQ 2247 (2024)	tbc	26 April 2024

s9(2)(a)

### 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
21 February	<div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> 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.	Originally 20 March 2024 – extended to 27 March to allow time for consultation with other agencies
14 March	Being coordinated by the Ministry for the Environment	Proactive release of documents relating to Fast Track Consenting	asap

### 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
Meeting with the Minister of Regional Development (Hon Jones) to discuss infrastructure-related aspects of RM reform	26 March	Infrastructure Commission officials – Alan Bollard, Ross Copland, Anna Moodie	Meeting requested following RM Ministers meeting on 20 February.
RM Reform Ministerial Group meeting	5-6pm, 26 March	RM Ministers Group, officials from a range of agencies including MfE and TW (Ross Copland, Paul Alexander)	We provided input to papers and delivered a briefing on ‘targeted amendments to the RMA for infrastructure’ [TW-2024-373 refers]
Meeting with the Minister of Transport (Hon Brown)	10.30-11am, 28 March	Infrastructure Commission officials – Alan Bollard, Ross Copland, Anna Moodie	We have provided a proposed agenda. This is a general discussion about links between infrastructure and transport work programmes.

Bilateral with Hon Watts, Minister of Climate Change	28 March	Ministers Bishop and Watts	<p>This is a short meeting to discuss the climate change adaptation framework and its alignment with housing, infrastructure, RM, and natural hazards work programmes.</p> <p>MfE has provided a comprehensive agenda. We provided input to talking points prepared by MHUD.</p>
Discussion re Before the Deluge report	8.30am, 8 April	Ministers Bishop, Jones, and Mitchell; officials from GWRC and ECAN	<p>The purpose of the meeting is to discuss flood management and the <a href="#">Before the Deluge report</a>. We are working with Kānoa (MBIE), MfE and DPMC (critical infrastructure resilience team) to prepare a joint briefing for Ministers.</p>
Infrastructure and Investment Ministers Group	9 April	Ministers Bishop (Chair), Willis, Brown, Goldsmith, Jones and Mr Court	<p>Tsy has offered to prepare an annotated agenda if needed. They will provide the agenda and papers on 28 March for circulation to Ministers on 4 April. TW will prepare a short note on agency input to development of the 30-year infrastructure plan.</p>
Meeting with Equity AI	3.15pm, 9 April	Minister Bishop and Matthew Webster, Equity AI	<p>Equity AI has asked to discuss Big Data, affordable housing and New Zealand. We will prepare an aide memoire with background information and talking points.</p>
Meeting with Transmission Gully post-construction reviewers	15 April	Steve Richards, Reviewer (NineSquared) and Lindsay Crossen, Peer Reviewer (Lincross Contracting), Rebecca Robertshawe and Brendan Herder (Infracom) and representatives from NZTA	<p>A briefing on the TG post-construction review was delivered 14 December [TW-2023-308].</p>
Meeting with Infrastructure Expert Advisory Panel	29 April (tbc)	Minister, IEAP	To discuss the IEAP's draft report

[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.]

### 3.8. Upcoming meetings for the Parliamentary Under-Secretary

Where requested, we provide support for meetings US Court is attending (in addition to those he attends with the Minister, above).

Meeting	Meeting date	Who will be attending/presenting	Comment / action
Meeting with RCP	27 March	Mr Court and RCP reps	We have provided bullet points.
Meeting with Mafic Partners	3 April	Mr Court and Mafic reps	We provided a background aide memoire on 25 March [TW-2024-376 refers].

## 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	Week beginning 25 March 2024	<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]. A further aide memoire attaching the draft report for feedback was delivered on 6 March [TW-2024-362 refers].</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 2024	<p>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</p>



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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
		s9(2)(g)(i)	
Insurance of infrastructure against natural disasters	Research Insight	Q3/Q4 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.

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