

Infrastructure weekly update

For the week starting 18 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 now scheduled for 10 April.
11 December	[REDACTED]	TW	asap	Pending
	[REDACTED]	s9(2)(g)(i)		
24 January	Provide a briefing on CO(23)9	TW	tbc	Sent 14 March
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	s9(2)(g)(i)		

2. Key issues and updates

2.1. Suggestions for RMA Amendment Bill #2

As per your letter of 1 March seeking suggestions from Ministers for matters to be included in the RMA Amendment Bill #2, we are preparing priority suggestions that will optimise infrastructure provision across the board. We will provide our advice to your officials at the Ministry for the Environment by your deadline of 15 March and to you as an Aide Memoire early this week.

Barbara Tebbs, GM Policy

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)
Regular Equity and Inclusion Policy Group online meeting organised by NZ Council of Christian Social Services	19 March	Jane Godfrey, Senior Advisor – Strategy, presentation on ‘What’s fair when it comes to paying for infrastructure?’ based on research from the paying for infrastructure deep dive research topic.
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.
Combined Local Government Sector Meeting	11 April	Geoff Cooper, General Manager Strategy, will be speaking about the National Infrastructure Plan and Infrastructure Priority List
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

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

Topic and tracking number	Date due to your office	What this advice covers	Deadline for Minister’s feedback
Background for Civil Contractors round table [TW-2024-369]	Sent 14 March	Provides background for a meeting between the Ministers for Infrastructure, Transport and Local Government and Alan Pollard (Civil Contractors NZ) from 4:30-5:30pm on Monday 18 March.	18 March
New requirements in the Investment Management System [TW-2024-367]	Sent 14 March	Responds to the Minister’s request, on 24 January 2024, for a briefing on Cabinet Office circular: Investment Management and Asset Performance in Departments and Other Entities (CO(23)9).	n/a
Summary of discussion on infrastructure funding and financing [TW-2024-370]	Sent 14 March	AM for US Court: Summary of a discussion with US Court and Infrastructure Commission officials on 8 March.	n/a
Infrastructure Priorities for RMA Amendment Bill #2	19 March	Sets out our advice on priorities for RMA Amendment Bill #2 to improve infrastructure provision.	n/a
Talking points for Mr Court – branch meeting of Civil Contractors NZ	10am 21 March	AM for US Court: Talking points for branch meeting of Civil Contractors NZ in Christchurch on 22 March.	22 March
Background for US Court’s meeting with the Minister of Education	21 March	AM for US Court: background for his discussion with Hon Stanford on 27 March re his delegations re education infrastructure, and funding and financing.	n/a

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
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Briefings re reports and publications

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
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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
National Infrastructure Pipeline snapshot for Q4 2023	Heads up provided 12 March	A regular update on projects in the Pipeline, their value and progress	Published 14 March
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
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

3.3. 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 for Climate Change	A range of papers are in development, including ahead of release of a public consultation paper on the second Emissions Reduction Plan in May.	tbc	ECO	tbc

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.	Sent 4 March 2024	11 March 2024 (unless extended)
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] s9(2)(a)	Request for a number of specific briefings provided to the Minister for Infrastructure between 19-27 February disclosed under WPQ 1189 (2024)	22 March 2024	3 April 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 due to send
21 February	██████████ 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. 19 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 Alan Pollard, Civil Contractors NZ Inc	4.30-5.30pm 18 March	Ministers Bishop and Brown will meet with Mr Pollard	We provided an aide memoire on 14 March.
US Court speech to Christchurch branch meeting of Civil Contractors NZ Inc	22 March	US Court, Alan Pollard and others	We are providing talking points by 21 March.
Climate Priorities Ministers Group	26 March	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.
Request for meeting with Minister of Transport to discuss the draft GPS on land transport	11.30 - 12noon 20 March	Alan Bollard, Ross Copland, Barbara Tebbs, Peter Nunns	Minister Brown has requested this meeting to discuss feedback we provided on the Transport GPS to Ministry of Transport officials on 15 February.
Meeting with Transmission Gully post-construction reviewers	10 April	Steve Richards, Reviewer (NineSquared) and Lindsay Crossen, Peer Reviewer (Lincross Contracting)	A briefing on the TG post-construction review was delivered 14 December [TW-2023-308].

US Court meeting with Hon Erica Stanford	27 March	Mr Court and Hon Standford	Mr Court will meet with Hon Standford to discuss his education infrastructure, and funding and financing delegations. We will provide a background aide memoire.
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. We have been asked to provide an agenda.

[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	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>

			providers as well as a summary of the history of Māori experiences of infrastructure.
Asset management maturity across the public sector	Research report	Q2	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.
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].
	s9(2)(g)(i)		
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.
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)
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.	