

Infrastructure weekly update

For the week starting 29 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
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] s9(2)(f)(iv)
15 April	Publish Transmission Gully Executive Summary report and Te Waihangā Foreword	TW	asap	Aim is to publish by 26 April. Aide memoire being drafted with final docs for release.
16 April	Provide a briefing on the PPP modernisation scope of work	TW	tbc	Pending
16 April	Provide a joint paper on the [REDACTED]	TW/Tsy	tbc	Pending

2. Key issues and updates

2.1. Release of North Island Severe Weather Event Inquiry

On 23 April, the final report for Government into last year’s North Island Severe Weather Events was released (the Report).

The report makes a number of recommendations relating to DPMC’s work on critical infrastructure resilience.

[Redacted content]

- [Redacted content]
- [Redacted content] s9(2)(f)(iv)

DPMC officials will be available to discuss this with you on Monday 29 April.

Ryan Walsh, DPMC

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)
IPWEA International Public Works Conference	30 April – 3 May	Ross Copland, Chief Executive, will be presenting at this event.
New Zealand Digital Twin 2024 conference	8 May	John Hemi, Director Construction Productivity will be presenting at this event on the Commission’s 30-year strategy aspirations for Digitalisation. This includes how the Commission is supporting Government to evolve functions and structure that in turn supports the adoption of data and digital, and Te Waihanga aspirations and role in this.
Infrastructure Commission Symposium (Commission event)	9 May	Ross Copland, Chief Executive, will be speaking about the monitoring of the Infrastructure Strategy. Our Board Chair, Dr Alan Bollard, will give a speech about infrastructure issues over the last five years.

		Other Commission staff will be chairing panels on infrastructure issues, and speaking about their research.
Infrastructure Commission/Queensland Lakes District Council joint workshop (Commission event)	10 May	Following the Infrastructure Commission's Symposium, the Commission is co-hosting an event with QLDC with the aim of providing infrastructure providers with an opportunity to discuss individual strategies and identify ways to enhance coordination and inform planning. Led by Ross Copland, Chief Executive, and Mike Theelen, Chief Executive, QLDC.
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.
Wellington Transport Analytics Unit (partnership between GWRC and NZTA): The Future of Transport Infrastructure Funding	29 May	Peter Nunns, Director – Economics, will serve on a panel looking at range of transport funding options.
Auckland-based Infrastructure Leaders Network Meet-Up (Commission event)	14 June (8am-12pm)	This event will be based on the successful format of the inaugural Meet-up in Wellington in February. The Minister and US Court are both attending. We are working with your offices to support your attendance.
Local Government New Zealand Infrastructure Symposium	14 June	Peter Nunns, Director – Economics, will present findings of some of our recent research, including infrastructure pricing.

Anna Moodie, General Manager Operations

s9(2)(a)

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
National Infrastructure Agency (NIA)	Week of 29 April	The Commission and the Treasury will provide you with a joint briefing in response to the Expert Panel’s advice to you.	n/a
Assessing priority projects for the National Infrastructure Plan [TW-2024-390]	2 May	The purpose of this briefing is to provide further details on the Commission’s proposed approach to delivering an assessment of Infrastructure Priorities as part of the National Infrastructure Plan.	n/a
Meeting with Reveal [TW-2024-395]	2 May	Provides background information for your meeting with delegates from Reveal on 6 May at 4.30pm.	6 May
Meeting with Infrastructure NZ	6 May	The Minister and Prime Minister are meeting with Infrastructure NZ on Wednesday 8 May. This aide memoire provides background information and talking points.	8 May
Briefings re reports and publications			
Infrastructure Pricing Study – research report [TW-2024-393]	Sent 23 April, cc-ed to US Court	Aide memoire outlining key findings from a study commissioned from PwC New Zealand to identify best practice pricing principles for network infrastructure and benchmark current pricing systems and practices across four sectors – land transport, water, telco and energy.	13 May (ahead of publication)
Transmission Gully review – publication of Executive Summary	Week of 29 April	Following the Minister’s decision on 15 April to publish the Transmission Gully Executive Summary report and Te Waihanga Foreword, this aide memoire provides final documents for release.	n/a

report and Te Waihanga Foreword			
Policy papers relating to the 'What's Fair' deep dive work programme	6 May	<p>Informs you of our plan to publish a final report and three policy papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final report – <i>Paying for infrastructure: What's fair? Insights, findings and recommendations</i> • Supplementary papers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>How various pricing policies affect households across different income levels</i> – <i>Pricing policy simulations</i> – <i>Access and quality of four networked infrastructure services</i> 	For publication the week beg 20 May
Māori engagement in infrastructure – research report	8 May (tbc)	Informs you of our plan to publish a report into Māori engagement on projects initiated by infrastructure providers as well as a summary of the history of Māori experiences of infrastructure development.	For publication 20 May (tbc)
Commentary papers on Infrastructure Pricing Study – research reports	May	Aide memoire will outline key findings from two research reports that consider how Infrastructure Strategy recommendations about transport pricing (congestion pricing/road tolls) and water pricing (volumetric charging/metering) may affect these sectors' performance against the best practice pricing principles outlined in the PwC Infrastructure Pricing Study. These papers are signalled in an aide memoire delivered 23 April [TW-2024-393 refers].	n/a
Aide memoire on OECD Infrastructure Week	9 May	Aide memoire summarizing the OECD Infrastructure Week held in Paris in April and attended by the Commission. We will summarize learnings relevant to PPP's and other infrastructure priorities.	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.

Topic and tracking number	Date due to your office	What this advice covers	Deadline for US's feedback
Background for meeting on infrastructure national direction	Sent 23 April. Minister Bishop cc-ed.	Meeting with Infrastructure Commission and MfE officials re the potential scope of infrastructure national direction in wider RM reform programme; Standards. Background powerpoint slides have been prepared jointly by TW and MfE.	29 April
Review and refresh of the Crown's PPP policy, framework, and contracting models	Interim AM on the scope of the PPP model review by 9 May, with further interim briefings and milestones tbc ahead of the final briefing on 30 September	The Minister for Infrastructure's upcoming Cabinet Paper on Infrastructure Funding and Financing will allocate the Parliamentary Under-Secretary responsibility for the review and refresh of the Crown's PPP, Sale and Leaseback and Unsolicited Proposal policies, frameworks and contracting models. We will work together with the Treasury and other agencies on these matters, with the Commission taking lead responsibility for the PPP Review.	n/a

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
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]

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
1 March s9(2)(a)	[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	Sent 17 April	26 April 2024

		February-6 March as disclosed under WPQ 2247 (2024)		
3 April	[REDACTED]	Copies of specific briefings provided to the Minister for Infrastructure	Sent 17 April	1 May 2024
s9(2)(a)	[REDACTED]			
19 April	[REDACTED]	List of advice received by the Minister for Infrastructure between 26 February and 2 April	Sent 23 April	30 April

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
14 March	Being coordinated by the Ministry for the Environment	Proactive release of documents relating to Fast Track Consenting. With your office for review.	Asap
4 April	[REDACTED]	Information regarding expenditure on public relations and communications support by the Infrastructure Commission	3 May
15 April	[REDACTED]	Copies of specific documents listed on our website; information about our attendance at upcoming delegations to Europe led by Infrastructure NZ (INZ); copies of email correspondence with INZ and Water NZ (scope tbc).	14 May

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 re city and regional deals	24 April, 6.30-7.30pm	Ministers Willis, Bishop, Brown, and Under-Secretary Court. Geoff Cooper will attend from InfraCom.	Papers have been provided. We have supported the office as required.
Meeting with Infrastructure Expert Advisory Panel (IEAP)	29 April (tbc)	Minister, IEAP	To discuss the IEAP's draft report
Meeting with US Court	29 April, 2.15-2.45 pm	Minister, US Court, InfraCom officials (tbc)	Agenda is: 1) the infrastructure pipeline 2) offshore wind and 3) infrastructure national direction [see ppt slides from MfE/TW sent 23 April].
Housing Ministers Group meeting	30 April, 7.30-8.30pm	Tbc	Tbc
Meeting with Reveal	6 May, 4.30pm	Delegates from Reveal	We will provide an aide memoire by 2 May.
Meeting with Infrastructure NZ	8 May	Prime Minister, Minister for Infrastructure, INZ officials (Nick Leggett and others) to discuss the Government's infrastructure priorities and how the industry can assist these.	We will provide an aide memoire by 6 May.
Infrastructure and Investment Ministers Group meeting	27 May	Hons Bishop, Willis, Brown, Jones and Parliamentary Under-Secretary Court	We will support the Tsy's secretariat as required.

[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
<div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">s9(2)(f)(iv)</p>	TBC	Andy Hagan and Brendan Herder, Delivery (Infracom)	US Court is considering requesting a meeting with the Commission to discuss <div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 100px; display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"></div>
Discussion re infrastructure national direction under the RMA	29 April, 12-12.30pm	Infrastructure Commission and MfE officials (tbc)	We provided ppt slides jointly with MfE on 23 April.
Meeting with Minister Bishop	29 April, 2.15-2.45pm	Minister, US Court, MfE and InfraCom officials	Agenda is: 1) the infrastructure pipeline 2) offshore wind and 3) infrastructure national direction [see ppt slides from MfE/TW sent 23 April].

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
	Research notes	W/C 29 April 2024	Series of technical research notes associated with the ‘Paying for infrastructure’ – Deep dive topic.
Transmission Gully post-construction review	Project review	W/C 29 April 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. A meeting with the Minister, Reviewers, NZTA and Commission occurred on 15 April where the Minister agreed to publication of the Transmission Gully report Executive Summary and the Commission’s Foreword. A briefing with final documents for release will be provided prior to release.
Monitoring progress against the Infrastructure Strategy	Monitoring report	9 May 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.
Water metering and leakage	Research report	May 2024	Includes cover note and report commissioned from Pat Dougherty, Director Wellington Water, about experiences in introducing water metering.
Infrastructure pricing with case studies in transport	Research Insight	May 2024	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.
Paying for infrastructure – Deep dive topic	Research report	May 2024	Final report of deep dive summarising key findings and recommendations from project and supplementary reports.

Potential sites for aggregate extraction in fast growing regions	Research report	May 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 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.
Māori engagement in Infrastructure	Research report	May 2024	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.
<i>Taking care of Tomorrow Today: An Asset Management State of Play</i>	Research report	Q2 2024	This paper outlines how mature our asset management tools and processes are across different infrastructure sectors, and provides recommendations to improve public sector asset management.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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.