

# Infrastructure weekly update

For the week starting 18 December 2023



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
28 November	Consider next steps for the NZ Infrastructure Strategy	Minister	No deadline	Pending
28 November	Provide advice on three waters	TW	asap	Briefing sent 14 December [TW-2023-314]
11 December	Provide NIA joint advice by 15 December	TW/Tsy/MBIE	15 Dec	Briefing to be delivered 15 December
11 December	Provide advice on infrastructure issues relating to repeal of the NBEA and SPA	TW	asap	Briefing delivered 11 December [TW-2023-310 refers]
11 December	Provide advice on fast track consenting	TW	asap	Briefing delivered 14 December [TW-2023-319]

11 December	Provide advice on [REDACTED]	TW	asap	Briefing delivered 14 December [TW-2023-308]
11 December	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Minister/ TW	22 Dec	[REDACTED] s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
11 December	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	TW	19 Dec	Briefing to be provided
11 December	Refer NZIER Health Infrastructure Report to Hon Reti and Hon Willis	Minister	asap	Subject to Minister's review. Briefing delivered 8 December [TW-2023-311]

## 2. Key issues and updates

### 2.1. National Infrastructure Agency

We have been working closely with officials from Treasury, MBIE and the Public Service Commission on a briefing 'Initial Advice on Establishing a National Infrastructure Agency (NIA)' [TW-2023-322] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] builds on the initial briefing provided to you last week [TW-2023-318].

The critical decision is how you would like officials to support you in the next phase of policy development in particular the review of roles and responsibilities across the system and consideration of how these could be clarified to drive better system performance. s9(2)(f)(iv)

Responsible GM: Blake Lepper

### 2.2 Housing supply

We have provided input on a Cabinet paper on solving the housing supply crisis, which we understand will be lodged on 15 December. A number of actions in the proposed work programme relate to recommendations in the Infrastructure Strategy, and we are supportive of the general aim of making housing more affordable by improving the competitiveness of urban land and development markets.

Our briefing on 'Optimising urban land markets and infrastructure through changes to the NPS-UD' [TW-2023-327], sent 15 December, follows on from this Cabinet paper. We have sought and used feedback from [REDACTED]

s9(2)(g)(i)

Responsible GM: Geoff Cooper

### 2.3 Local government financing

We are preparing a briefing on local government financing that will draw on existing work from a Research Insights paper on the same subject. This information provides background context for our briefings on water reform and housing supply. We will provide the briefing on key insights and findings by 19 December.

Responsible GM: Geoff Cooper

### 2.4 National Infrastructure Pipeline – setting clear expectations for government organisations

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)

Responsible GM: Geoff Cooper



## 2.8 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)
KPMG 30 Voices on 2030	31 January 2024	Ross Copland will join a panel discussion on: <i>Are regulatory settings positioning us for success? The future of energy in Aotearoa.</i>

Responsible GM: Anna Moodie

# 3 Upcoming advice

## 3.2 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 <a href="#">tracking number</a>	Date due to your office	What this advice covers	Deadline for Minister’s feedback
Fast-track consenting [TW-2023-319]	Sent 14 December	Advice on how to improve consenting processes to enable faster delivery and greater certainty for infrastructure projects. This advice supports the Government’s 100-day plan to begin work on establishing a fast-track consenting regime.	tba
Water reform [TW-2023-314]	Sent 14 December	Advice on water sector reform. This advice supports the Government’s 100-day plan to repeal the Water Services Entities Act.	tba
Initial advice on establishing a National Infrastructure Agency [TW-2023-322]	15 December	Joint briefing with the Tsy and MBIE. Further information about options; next steps for government (as part of 100-day plan): action plan/dates/leadership/roles etc.	For Cabinet consideration New Year
Optimising urban land markets and infrastructure through changes to the NPS-UD [TW-2023-327]	Sent 15 December	Focuses on near term opportunities to strengthen the National Policy Statement on Urban Development to improve the competitiveness of urban land markets and the efficiency of infrastructure provision and use.	tba
National direction, upcoming decisions under the RMA and other planning matters	19 December	Advice on recent consultations regarding national direction, options to take forward new and amend existing national direction to better enable infrastructure. Other RMA and planning matters for consideration. This advice supports the Government’s 100-day plan to repeal the Spatial Planning Act, NBE Act and consider alternatives.	New Year
Project leadership	19 December	Building leadership capability in major project leaders.	New Year

Meeting with Infrastructure New Zealand [TW-2023-324]	19 December	Meeting briefing and talking points for the Minister’s meeting with INZ at 12.15-12.45pm 20 December	20 December	
Contractor market sounding	19 December	Insight on vertical build contractor market capacity as informed by our recent engagement with the sector.	New Year	
Budget 24 – infrastructure projects	19 December [subject to further discussion]	[REDACTED]	New Year	s9(2)(f)(iv)
[REDACTED]	19 December	[REDACTED]	New Year	s9(2)(f)(iv)
30-year plans, Infrastructure priority list (IPL) and National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)	January	Outlines how the Infrastructure Commission could respond to the government’s proposal for us to develop 30-year infrastructure plans. [REDACTED]	tba	s9(2)(f)(iv)
North Island Weather Events recovery support	January	Outlines what support TW can provide Minister (noting 100-day plan items 6 and 7), progress to date, challenges. May extend to learnings and options for improvements in the future.	tba – ahead of any further information collection	
Pricing and revenue – including options for transport funding	January	Will canvass a range of pricing options and tools to address revenue deficits for transport and other infrastructure. This advice supports the Government’s 100-day plan to update the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport.	tba	
Options for reviewing infrastructure projects [TW-2023-312]	New year	Options for reviewing projects.	tba	

**Briefings re reports and publications**

Health infrastructure: Building a Healthy Future Report 2023 [TW-2023-311]	Sent 8 December	Sets out findings and informs the Minister of the plan to publish a NZIER report - Building a Healthy Future. The report estimates the public hospital infrastructure spending needed during the next 30 years. It includes recommendations and is ready for publication. Could inform next steps on Dunedin Hospital and the possible reprioritisation of the health investment pipeline.	asap
[REDACTED]	Sent 14 December	Sets out key findings from the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	For a meeting with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] timing tbc
Local government financing	19 December	Sets out findings and informs the Minister of our plan to publish a research insights report that 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. This information provides background context for our briefings on water reform and housing supply.	asap
December quarterly insights report	19 December	Informs the Minister of planned release of one report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How much is our infrastructure worth? Infrastructure asset value, depreciation, and investment baselining</li> </ul>	New Year
What New Zealanders think is a fair way to pay for infrastructure: Insights from the Kantar Public survey [TW-2023-313]	19 December	Sets out findings and informs the Minister of the plan to publish the survey report.	New Year

s9(2)(f)(iv)

### 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 – October-December 2023	February	Quarterly report on performance against our Statement of Performance Expectations.	February

### 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] s9(2)(f)(iv)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

### 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
None				

### 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 for briefing to Minister	Date due to send
None				

### 3.7 Upcoming Ministerial meetings

Where requested, we provide support for meetings you are attending.

Meeting	Meeting date	Meeting purpose	Comment/action
Infrastructure New Zealand	20 December 2023	Introductory	We will provide talking points by 19 December

[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>Why do construction input costs change? The role of global and local factors</i> (September quarter 2023 Research Insights paper)	Research insight	Published 15 December	This paper identifies drivers of short-term movements in prices for key inputs to infrastructure construction, in particular construction wages and construction material prices. An aide memoire informing him about release of this report was sent to the Minister’s office on 6 December [TW-2023-320].
<i>Who’s working in infrastructure? A baseline report</i> (second September quarter 2023 Research Insights paper)	Research insight	Published 15 December	This paper defines the infrastructure workforce, including planning, construction, and maintenance, and provides baseline metrics on the size and characteristics of the workforce. An aide memoire informing him about release of this report was sent to the Minister’s office on 6 December [TW-2023-320].
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
<i>Building a healthy future: The potential scale of investment in Crown-owned health</i>	Research report	Q1 2024	This review was commissioned from NZIER and estimates the public hospital infrastructure spending needed during the next 30 years.

s9(2)(f)(iv)



get the most out of building	Research report	April 2024	incentives that play out across a project's lifecycle. This is part of our wider work to help create a consistent culture of world class project performance.
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 geospatial information on potential aggregate sources in four regions: Auckland, Wellington, Tauranga and Queenstown where supply is currently constrained. Between now and publication in March/April 2024 (date TBC) 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.
Insurance of infrastructure against natural disasters (June quarter 2024 Research Insights paper)	Research insight	June 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.