

Infrastructure weekly update

For the week starting 20 May 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
29 January	Provide advice on prioritisation, implications and trade-offs for development of 30-year infrastructure plan	TW	s9(2)(g)(i)	Pending

2. Key issues and updates

2.1. Resource Management reform – infrastructure priorities

For your consideration ahead of the 22 May Resource Management Ministers’ Group meeting, we have provided a short Aide Memoire outlining infrastructure priorities for phase 2 of the reform and the relationship with phase 3. Together with MfE, we met with US Court on Thurs 16 May to progress discussion on the work programme for infrastructure national direction, focusing on s9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]. The background information from this meeting has been shared with your office.

Barbara Tebbs, General Manager Policy

2.2. National Infrastructure Agency

We are supporting Treasury with the Crown’s response to the Panel’s report. This includes providing written advice to the Treasury on considerations in relation to the Panel’s recommendations. An update on the process is due to be discussed at the Infrastructure and Investment Ministers Group meeting on Tuesday 21 May.

Andy Hagan, General Manager Delivery

s9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Barbara Tebbs, General Manager Policy

s9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted content]

[Redacted content]

Andy Hagan, General Manager Delivery

2.5. 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)
Āpōpō Congress on Asset Management	21 and 22 May	We have supplied draft talking points for the Minister’s speech at 9.15am on 21 May. Peter Nunns, Director – Economics, will be presenting on findings from some of the 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.
Infrastructure New Zealand AGM	11 June	Ross Copland will be speaking at this event.
Transportation Group Conference	12 June	Nadine Dodge, Principal Economist will be speaking at this event about the national infrastructure plan and the Commission’s equity research.
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

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
Priority Resource Management Reforms for Infrastructure in Phase 2 and links to Phase 3 [TW-2024-407]	Sent 16 May	This aide memoire sets out our view of high priority RM reforms for infrastructure provision, ahead of the RM Ministers Group meeting on 22 May.	22 May
Building Together conference on 6 June	4 June	Minter Ellison has organised this conference. You and Hon Willis will be on a panel to discuss procurement and funding models, construction and infrastructure priorities. This aide memoire will provide context and talking points.	6 June
Meeting with Beca CE on 11 June	7 June	Background information and talking points for this meeting at 3.30pm on 11 June.	11 June
Infrastructure Leaders Network meet up in Auckland on 14 June	11 June	Background information and talking points for your attendance at this second INL meeting in Auckland (building on the earlier ILN meet-up in Wellington)	14 June
Briefings re reports and publications			
Final report for the ‘What’s Fair’ deep dive work programme	23 May	<p>Informs you of our plan to publish the final report “Paying for infrastructure: What’s fair? Insights, findings and recommendations” and associated technical research notes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of distributional analysis: How different ways of charging for infrastructure affects households across 	For publication 11 June (tbc)

		<p>different income levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drivers of household expenditure on infrastructure – An analysis of the factors that explain variations in household infrastructure spending • Income elasticity of household infrastructure expenditure – Supplementary analysis to ‘How much do we pay for infrastructure’ • Māori household expenditure on infrastructures services • Simulating the impact of different funding scenarios on households at different income levels 	
Māori engagement in infrastructure – research report	22 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 early June
Potential sites for aggregate extraction in fast growing regions	23 May (tbc)	Informs you of key findings from research and reports on potential sites for aggregate extraction in fast growing regions, and our plan to publish the reports late May.	For publication late May/June (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].	For publication in June (tbc)
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
Infrastructure national direction scope and milestones	Sent 13 May	A slide-set prepared jointly by MfE and Te Waihanga, as background information for your meeting with officials at 2pm on 16 May.	16 May

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
Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE)	Sent 13 May 2024	We received the Letter of Expectations on 15 April and provided a draft SPE to your office on 2 May. We provided an updated draft on 13 May following the Board meeting, along with a response to the Letter of Expectations.	Delivered 13 May
Q4 Quarterly Report	End of July	Provides an update of our progress on key aspects of our work programme, and performance against the SPE.	

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)	[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]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[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
9 May	s9(2)(a)	Copies of advice, briefings and communications re finding cost efficiencies for the Riverlink project in Hutt City	20 May	27 May
14 May	s9(2)(a)	Copies of briefings disclosed under WPQ 4093	31 May	11 June
14 May	s9(2)(a)	Copies of listed reports	31 May	11 June

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
7 May	s9(2)(a)	Copies of specific briefings provided to the Minister for Infrastructure - transferred from the office of the Minister for Infrastructure [OIA24-CB109]	5 June

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
Climate Priorities Ministerial Group	20 May, 7.30pm	Barbara Tebbs to attend for InfraCom	Papers have been provided to Ministers.
Āpōpō conference	21 May, 3.30pm	Minister to speak for approx. 10 mins.	We provided talking points for the Minister on 14 May.
Meeting re New Dunedin Hospital	21 May, 6.30pm	Ministers Bishop, Reti and Jones Ross Copland to attend for TW	Health NZ will be providing an agenda.
Infrastructure and Investment Ministers Group meeting	21 May, 7pm	Hons Bishop, Willis, Brown, Jones and Parliamentary Under-Secretary Court	We will support the Tsy's secretariat as required.
RMA Ministerial Group	22 May, 7pm	Ministers and US Court. Barbara Tebbs and Paul Alexander to attend for InfraCom	We will provide input to papers as required. Aide memoire <i>Priority Resource Management Reforms for Infrastructure in Phase 2 and links to Phase 3</i> [TW-2024-407] provided 16 May
Going for Housing Growth meeting	23 May, 3.30pm	Geoff Cooper/Peter Nunns to attend	Agenda tbc – HUD to coordinate attendance
Monthly meeting Minister Bishop/US Court	28 May, 5.15pm	Minister, US Court, and officials (as required).	Agenda tbc
Housing Ministerial Group (tbc)	28 May, 7.30pm	Hons Willis, Upston, Potaka, Penk and US Court. Geoff Cooper to attend for InfraCom	Tbc
Post-Budget speech	5 June, from 12 noon	Minister to speak at Dunedin Chamber of Commerce	tbc
Building Together conference (Minter Ellison)	6 June, 11.30am	Ministers Willis and Minister Bishop will be on a panel to discuss procurement and funding models,	We will provide an aide memoire with context, talking points/FAQs by 4 June.

		construction and infrastructure priorities	
Meeting with LGNZ	10 June, 1.15pm	LGNZ and InfraCom (attendance tbc)	A briefing is probably not required – tbc
Joint meeting with Minister Brown, with EY re infrastructure plans (in Akld)	11 June, 8.30am		A briefing is probably required
Meeting with Beca CE	11 June, 3.30pm		We will provide a background aide memoire
Going for Housing Growth meeting	11 June, 4.15pm	Geoff Cooper and Peter Nunns to attend.	Agenda tbc
Quantity Surveyors conference	13 June, 9.30am		Minister to deliver keynote. Commissioning tbc.
LGZ Infrastructure Symposium networking function	13 June, 5.30pm		Talking points etc tbc.
Infrastructure Leaders Network event in Auckland	14 June, 10.30am	Minister Bishop and US Court both attending.	We will provide an aide memoire and talking points.
Property Council industry awards	14 June, evening	Minister – probably not speaking but giving awards.	Tbc

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
Industry workshops on infrastructure national direction and standards	13 May 10.30-12pm 15 May 2-3.30pm	Industry stakeholders, MfE and InfraCom officials	You have expressed an interest in attending sector-specific workshops on infrastructure national direction. We have provided invitations and further information about these workshops to your office.
Meeting with officials to discuss the Infrastructure national direction work programme	16 May	Barbara Tebbs, Tanya Perrott and Paul Alexander to attend for InfraCom, MfE officials	Agenda/papers tbc
Infrastructure and Investment Ministers Group meeting	21 May, 7pm	Hons Bishop, Willis, Brown, Jones and Parliamentary Under-Secretary Court	We will support the Tsy's secretariat as required.
RMA Ministerial Group	22 May, 7pm	Barbara Tebbs and Paul Alexander to attend for InfraCom	We will provide input to papers as required.
Monthly meeting Minister Bishop/US Court	28 May, 5.15pm	Minister, US Court, and officials (as required).	Agenda tbc
Housing Ministerial Group meeting	28 May, 7.30pm	Hons Willis, Upston, Potaka, Penk and US Court. Geoff Cooper to attend for InfraCom	Tbc

[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
Infrastructure pricing	Research Insight	W/C 17 May 2024 (embargoed release to media on 16 May)	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. We provided you with an aide memoire that outlines key findings of the Pricing Study, with a copy of the report, on 23 April [TW-2024-393 refers].
Potential sites for aggregate extraction in fast growing regions	Research report	W/C 27 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. We will provide you an aide memoire on this work in late May.
Māori engagement in Infrastructure	Research report	W/C 3 June 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.
Paying for infrastructure: What’s Fair? – Deep dive topic	Research report	W/C 10 June 2024	Final report of deep dive summarising key findings and recommendations. Technical research notes which support this research will also be released at this time.
Water metering and leakage	Research report	June 2024	Examines the economic and societal benefits of using water metering and volumetric charging to help solve water network-related challenges.

Transport pricing case studies	Research report	June 2024	This looks at experience of tolling, congestion charging and other forms of pricing and demand management.
Transparency response paper	Response to research	July 2024	This report analyses the possible actions the Government could make in response to the Infrastructure Commission's work on transparency in projects. A briefing on this was provided to the Minister on 26 March [TW-2024-339 refers].
Taking care of Tomorrow Today: An Asset Management State of Play	Research report	July 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.
Introducing water meters	Case studies	July 2024	Includes foreword from us, followed by case studies and reflections on introducing water metering commissioned from Pat Dougherty, Director Wellington Water. These are about his experiences introducing water metering in Kapiti and Nelson.
Auckland's infrastructure	Research report	TBC Q3 2024	Using recently published research, this report will drill down into several pieces of our published research to provide Auckland-focused insights.
Insurance of infrastructure against natural disasters	Research Insight	TBC 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.