

Infrastructure weekly update

For the week starting 29 January 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
28 November	Consider next steps for the NZ Infrastructure Strategy	Minister	No deadline	Pending
11 December	[REDACTED]	Minister/ TW	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] s9(2)(f)(iv)
11 December	[REDACTED]	TW	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	s9(2)(g)(i)		
11 December	Refer NZIER Health Infrastructure Report to the Ministers of Finance and Health	Minister	asap	Agreed and actioned (also provided to Under-Sec Court).

2. Key issues and updates

2.1. 30-year Infrastructure Plan

s9(2)(g)(i)

In your feedback to [REDACTED], you agreed to discuss with us your expectations for the development of a long term national infrastructure plan. In preparation for this discussion, we have prepared a briefing on a potential approach to 30-year plans that uses *Infrastructure for the Future* as a starting point; namely, that the 30-year infrastructure plan will cover all sectors and be broken down by city and region, including development of an infrastructure priority list similar to the approach taken by Infrastructure Australia. This briefing will be included in your weekend bag ahead of our standing officials meeting on 29 January [TW-2024-336 refers].

Responsible GM: Geoff Cooper

2.2. Fast track consenting

The Commission continues to be actively involved in Fast Track advice being prepared for Ministers. Our main focuses at the moment include:

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

Responsible GM: Barbara Tebbs

2.3. Symposium 2024

Thank you for confirming that you would like to attend and open the Infrastructure Commission's Symposium on 9 May 2024 in Queenstown. For your planning purposes you are also invited to attend both the pre- and post-conference functions in Queenstown as follows:

- Speakers dinner - evening of 8 May 2024
- The conference will open around 9am on 9 May 2024
- Networking event - after the conference (around 5pm) on 9 May 2024.

We will also extend an invitation to attend the Symposium to Under-Secretary Court.

Responsible GM: Anna Moodie

2.4. Attendance at the Commission's Board Strategy and Planning Day

The Commission's Board is holding a strategy and planning day with senior staff on 22 February 2024 in Wellington. We would like to invite you to attend the start of the day (or at a time that suits) to discuss the Government's priorities for infrastructure. The day is being held in the Wellington Room at the Intercontinental Hotel.

Responsible GM: Anna Moodie

2.5. Ministerial Groups

We support your recommendation to establish [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

s9(2)(f)(iv)

We will work with your office to develop a draft Terms of Reference for your consideration.

Responsible GM: Blake Lepper

2.6. 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

3.5. 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 for heads up to Minister	Date due to send
18 December 2023	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		s9(2)(f)(iv)

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 Mayor Holdom, New Plymouth	25 January, 1.00-1.45pm	You and the Minister of Transport will meet with Mayor Holdom	We have provided content on infrastructure issues for a briefing led by MHUD
Meeting to discuss the New Dunedin Hospital	31 January	You and the Ministers of Finance and Health, along with officials	We have provided a background briefing for this meeting [TW-2024-335 refers]

[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>A fair way of paying for infrastructure: Survey insights</i>	Research report	W/C 29 January	Provides Insights from a Kantar Public survey into what New Zealanders think is a fair way to pay for infrastructure. A briefing on this was provided to the Minister on 18 December [TW-2023-313 refers].
<i>Building a healthy future: The potential scale of investment in Crown-owned health infrastructure over the next 30 years</i>	Research report	W/C 12 February	This review was commissioned from NZIER and estimates the public hospital infrastructure spending needed during the next 30 years. A briefing on this was provided to the Minister on 8 December [TW-2023-311 refers].
<i>Do we build, or do maintenance? New Zealand’s infrastructure asset value, investment, and depreciation, 1990-2022</i>	Research insight	W/C 19 February	This report is expected to provide consistent baseline data on the asset value of our infrastructure networks (public and private), current/historic rates of capital investment, and current/historic depreciation rates. It provides a quantitative evidence base to complement the “Asset management maturity across the public sector” report. An aide memoire on this report will be provided to the Minister on 26 January [TW-2024-340 refers]
Local government financing in New Zealand (Research Insights paper)	Research insight	March	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.

Towards better contracts: building better relationships to get the most out of building	Research report	Q2 2024	Report commissioned from ALTA. The success or failure of a project is often determined in its early stages – in particular, the commercial and contractual framework will set the foundation for the relationship and 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.
Insurance of infrastructure against natural disasters (June quarter 2024 Research Insights paper)	Research insight	Q2 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.