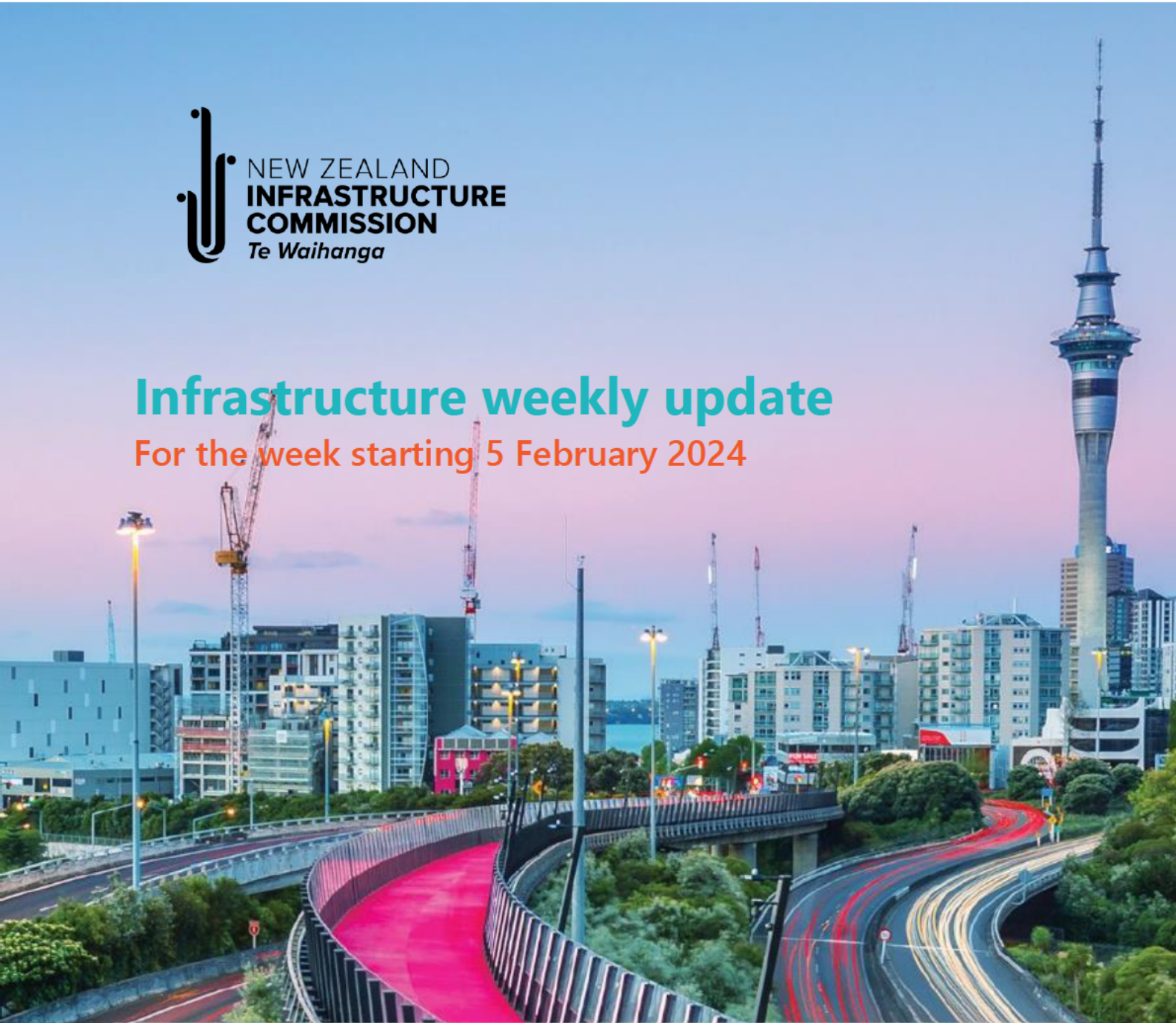


Infrastructure weekly update

For the week starting 5 February 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	22 Dec	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] s9(2)(f)(iv)
11 December	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)	TW	asap	To be delivered by end of Feb
24 January	Invite Minister to Board Planning day on 22 February	TW	asap	Actioned in status report for week beginning 29/1 – see item 2.4

Meeting date	Agreed action	By whom	By when	Status
24 January	Include background context on the role of the Commission's Infrastructure Strategy in the briefing note on 30 year plans	TW	25 Jan	See briefing TW-2024-336 delivered 25 Jan
24 January	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
29 January	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]			s9(2)(g)(i)
	[REDACTED]			

2. Key issues and updates

2.1. Update on City Rail Link Phase 2 review

In 2022 the Infrastructure Commission undertook to complete a 'lessons learnt' review of the City Rail Link (CRL) project. The Terms of Reference are published on our website and document a two-phase approach to the review. The first phase, a review into the CRL project, was published on our website in 2023. The second phase of the review was intended to compare project delivery performance internationally with a focus on key learnings to inform future NZ projects. A separate Terms of Reference for phase 2 was ultimately not required as all phase 1 review stakeholders, including City Rail Link Limited, have worked constructively with the Commission to agree the scope and procurement of phase 2. [REDACTED]

s9(2)(g)(i)

Responsible GM: Blake Lepper

2.2. Second quarterly report for 2023/24 – October-December 2023

Our Q2 report includes a number of highlights for the October-December 2023 period, including our work on resource management reforms and fast track legislation, water reforms and housing.

We are also monitoring progress against the 30-year Infrastructure Strategy. The Strategy is an enduring document which sets out the actions New Zealand needs to take over the next 30 years to make sure our infrastructure system meets the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. We made 68 recommendations in the Strategy, most of which were supported by the previous Government.

Off the back of these recommendations, the Government released the Infrastructure Action Plan, setting out 331 infrastructure commitments intended to give effect to the Government Response to the Strategy. Cabinet asked the Commission to track and report on implementation of the Action Plan. Alongside the monitoring of the Action Plan, we are monitoring the progress against the Strategy overall, which will inform our next statutory Strategy Report, due by early 2026.

We note that about two-thirds of actions in the Infrastructure Action Plan are drawn from the Government's Emissions Reduction Plan and National Adaptation Plan – and that we are coordinating with the Ministry for the Environment (who is responsible for monitoring and reporting on these Plans) to align and streamline reporting across all three Plans.

s9(2)(g)(i)

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Responsible GM: Anna Moodie

2.3. 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)
Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID	2 February 2024	Presenting to the Royal Commission on infrastructure learnings from COVID

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
Options for reviewing infrastructure projects [312]	Sent 29 January	Sets out options for the Minister for reviews of major projects.	tba
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	tba
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	s9(2)(f)(iv)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	February [tbd]	As requested at the meeting with the Minister on 29 January – building on advice provided in [REDACTED]	asap
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	s9(s)(f)(iv)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Contractor market sounding [316]	8 February	Insight on vertical build contractor market capacity as informed by our recent engagement with the sector.	asap
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	s9(2)(g)(i)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Pricing and revenue – including options for transport funding	Mid-February	Will canvass a range of pricing options and tools to address revenue deficits for transport. This advice supports the Government’s 100-day plan to update the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport.	asap

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
30 January 2024	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] s9(2)(f)(iv)

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's office	Date due to send
18 December 2023	[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
None			

[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>What New Zealanders think is a fair way to pay for infrastructure: Survey insights</i>	Research report	2 February (released under embargo on 1 February)	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>Build or maintain? New Zealand's infrastructure asset values, 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 was 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.

			An aide memoire providing a heads-up on this work was provided to the Minister on 19 December [TW-2023-332 refers].
Asset management maturity across the public sector	Research report	March/April 2024	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.
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 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.
Approaches to Infrastructure Pricing Study	Research Insight	April 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.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

s9(2)(f)(iv)

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Q2 2024	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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.	s9(2)(g)(i)
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.	