



Submission to Te Waihangā on the “Draft National Infrastructure Plan” document

Infrastructure Sustainability Council – Accompanying Letter

The Infrastructure Sustainability Council (ISC) welcomes this opportunity to submit on the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission – Te Waihangā’s Draft National Infrastructure Plan. This submission builds on our 2024 submission on the “Testing our Thinking” discussion document. This submission represents the views of the ISC as a collective whole and may not necessarily represent the views of individual member organisations.

We have responded to those questions and topics from the consultation document that we can best contribute to. The ISC welcomes further engagement with the Commission as it finalises the National Infrastructure Plan.

The Infrastructure Sustainability Council is a for-purpose organisation that has certified sustainability performance across Australia and New Zealand since 2012. ISC is a member-based social enterprise that serves as the peak body for sustainable infrastructure.

As part of a comprehensive approach to managing assets’ sustainability performance, the IS Rating Scheme drives decisions and actions towards a better future for people and planet. We assess infrastructure assets across the full spectrum of the asset lifecycle, and measure impact across the quadruple bottom line of economic, environmental, social and governance. The ISC’s sustainability framework, the IS Rating Scheme, is applicable to all asset types including water, road, rail, energy, and social infrastructure.

Aggregated data from use of the IS Rating tools shows significant savings from smart design, resource efficiency and innovation as well as contributions to capability building and economic development. The IS Rating tools – covering planning, design, construction and operations - are widely recognised and mandated by jurisdictions and their associated delivery agencies including National, States / Territories, and municipal councils. ISC has a proven track record of driving innovation and best practice, illustrated by the fact that since 2012 the ISC has certified over 415 rated assets with a combined CAPEX close to \$390bn.

Recent recognition of the value of IS Ratings can be found in its inclusion in the Australian Commonwealth Government’s newly released Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy¹. Under that policy one of the metrics for suppliers to meet Australian best practice standards is to show they have achieved a verified IS Rating from the ISC.

We thank Te Waihangā for this opportunity to submit on what is an important building block towards greater certainty in planning for and delivering connected and resilient infrastructure that enables people to thrive on a healthy planet.

More information about ISC can be found at: <https://www.iscouncil.org/>

¹ DCCEE 2024, Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Canberra, July