

Infrastructure weekly update

For the week starting 21 October 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
18 September Quarterly meeting between TW officials and Minister Brown	Provide copies of relevant Te Waihangā Research & Insights reports to Minister Brown’s office	TW	No deadline	Pending

Feedback on TW-2024-501 (NIP)	Arrange for the Minister to attend the Wellington regional stakeholder event in November, if possible	TW	asap	Invite is with your office.
Feedback on TW-2024-501 (NIP)	Draft a media statement for the Minister to release alongside the NIP discussion document	TW	23 October	Pending
Feedback on TW-2024-501 (NIP)	Provide 2010/ 11/ 15 Plans for Christmas/ Summer Bag	Tsy	For Christmas/ summer bag	Pending
14 October officials meeting	Consider including commentary on housing and growth in the NIP discussion document	TW	asap	To be addressed as part of revisions to the discussion document

s9(2)(g)(i)



2. Key issues and updates

2.1. National Infrastructure Plan

Draft Discussion Document: *Testing our thinking: Developing an enduring National Infrastructure Plan*

We have shared an early draft of the discussion document *Testing our thinking: Developing an enduring National Infrastructure Plan* with you and are incorporating your feedback. We intend to publish the document on 5 November ahead for our regional stakeholder workshops. This will give stakeholders time to provide feedback before the end of the year. It will also allow for collation and analysis of the commentary by February 2025, to feed into the Plan development process.

The regional workshops will be limited to about 40 people each. We will be inviting representatives from local and central government, iwi/hapū, infrastructure providers, construction and the wider sector.

Morning workshops will be focused on Te Waihanga stakeholders and the afternoon workshops will be jointly hosted with Infrastructure New Zealand so that we reach their membership. Dates and locations are as follows:

- 6 November, Hastings (Toitō – Hawke’s Bay Arts and Events Centre, 101 Hastings Street South), 9.00am to 12.00pm and 1.00pm to 4.00pm
- 12 November, Christchurch (Hornby Club, 17 Carmen Road, Hornby), 9.00am to 12.00pm and 1.00pm to 4.00pm
- 14 November, Wellington (City and Sea Museum, von Kohorn Room, 3 Jervois Quay), 1.00 to 4.00pm. Note: we are only hosting an afternoon workshop in Wellington. **We have invited the Minister to open this workshop.** Like the other afternoon workshops this will be jointly co-hosted with Infrastructure New Zealand
- 19 November, Auckland (Four Points by Sheraton, 396 Street), 9.00am to 12.00pm and 1.00pm to 4.00pm

We will also be offering webinars for those who are unable to attend one of the above workshops. We will be promoting the webinars once the discussion document is released.

Response to Ministerial letters requesting support for the Plan

We have received a strong initial response from central government to the letters you sent asking agencies to nominate key contacts for engagement, and to support the Plan. The response to letters sent to local government organisations has been weaker to date.

Summary statistics:

- 16 of 32 central government entities have responded confirming contacts, three organisations have responded but have not confirmed contacts yet,
- Only 10 of 77 local government entities have directly responded. No council-controlled organisations have responded (the letter to local government entities requested the letters be passed on to CCOs with a role in delivering infrastructure services).

We will continue to monitor this response and will keep you updated on engagement in response to your request.

National Infrastructure Pipeline

The 2024 September quarter information update to the National Infrastructure Pipeline was published on the Commission's website and Insights Platform on 30 September 2024. We focused on increasing local government contributors during the quarter, adding nine and lifting council contributors to 48. There are now 94 organisations contributing to the Pipeline in total.

With the various changes in reported information, the total value of projects in the Pipeline decreased 2.7% (\$4 billion) from \$147.6 billion in June to 143.6 billion in September. We are currently analysing the submission data to understand and explain changes. The Pipeline Snapshot report is being prepared and is expected to be released on 31 October. A media release will be drafted for you to support this work.

Infrastructure Priorities Programme

We continue to engage with infrastructure providers on the Infrastructure Priorities Programme (IPP). We have had high participation in our webinars and pre-application meetings with the infrastructure sector, with many infrastructure providers indicating their intention to participate.

While it will be too early for the IPP to inform Budget 2025, we will provide inputs into the Budget process through Treasury in line with the approach in previous years. However, there are potential options for formally integrating the IPP into investment management processes in outyears. We will continue to work collaboratively with Treasury on options for integration of the IPP with the Investment Management system for Budget 2026.

Infrastructure Needs Analysis

On 14 October, we held the second meeting of a reference group established to assist us on long-term infrastructure investment needs to support decarbonisation. The group is composed of a diverse group of government and private sector participants with significant experience in this area. It is advising us on approaches to quantifying infrastructure investment need to meet our emissions goals. At this meeting, the group discussed various approaches to quantifying the need for infrastructure to help us meet our emissions goals, as well as different scenarios and uncertainties to be incorporated in our analysis.

The reference group will continue to meet bi-weekly through mid-December.

Peter Nunns, Acting General Manager, Strategy

2.2. s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Peter Nunns, Acting General Manager, Strategy

2.3. Ministerial meeting on the adaptation framework – deferred from 15 October

As advised in last week’s status report, a Ministerial meeting was scheduled on 15 October to consider findings from the Finance and Expenditure Committee’s Inquiry into Climate Adaptation and next steps for the adaptation framework. This meeting was unable to go ahead and will be re-scheduled. We can provide an updated briefing ahead of this meeting, as required.

Barbara Tebbs, General Manager, Policy

2.4. National Policy Statement on Infrastructure

As discussed in your recent bilateral with Under-Secretary Court, you are about to receive a briefing s9(2)(f)(iv)

The Commission has been fully involved in the work to develop the NPS-I (and to align with amendments to the NPS for Renewable Energy Generation and NPS for Electricity Transmission). Infrastructure providers tell us that these instruments should make a significant difference in better enabling and protecting infrastructure under the RMA. We support the recommendations in the briefing.

Barbara Tebbs, General Manager, Policy

2.5. Public Works Act Review and related upcoming decisions

We are aware of s9(2)(f)(iv) legislative proposals coming to you soon to amend Public Works Act (PWA): s9(2)(f)(iv)

the wider review of the PWA due to Cabinet by the end of the year. We advise taking decisions in the context of the wider review of the PWA s9(2)(f)(iv) implementing the findings from the wider review.

The Commission supports changes to improve and accelerate land acquisition processes for public infrastructure projects, but s9(2)(f)(iv)

The wider PWA review is intended to retain, but streamline, a process for landowner objections. The wider review is looking to remove duplication with RMA processes and narrow the grounds for landowner objections, including by making explicit that compensation issues cannot be raised as part of the objection (which can often lie behind objections). If this work remains on track, it will likely be enacted by early 2026 and provide an enduring improvement for all public infrastructure land acquisitions.

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Barbara Tebbs, General Manager, Policy

2.6. s9(2)(f)(iv)

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Barbara Tebbs, General Manager, Policy

2.7. 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)
Infrastructure Priorities Programme webinar	23 October	We will be hosting another general overview of the Infrastructure Priorities Programme (IPP) for potential submitters. This is part of a series of webinars being led by our IPP team.
Construction Procurement Summit, Sydney, AU (joining panel online)	24 October	Rebecca Robertshawe, Director – Projects and Programmes, will be an online panel member to discuss ‘Making it easier for contractors to work with Government by establishing modern and mature procurement practices’.
National Infrastructure Pipeline, introductory session for new contributors	1 November	We will be hosting another introductory session on the National Infrastructure Pipeline for new contributors as part of our onboarding process. The session will cover the purpose and importance of the Pipeline and the process of supplying and updating information.
Introducing water meters webinar	1 November	We’ll be launching and promoting our <i>Introducing water meters</i> report via an LGNZ webinar for local government elected officials and senior water staff.
National Infrastructure Plan – four stakeholder engagement events	6 to 19 November	We are planning four regional visits between 6 and 14 November to discuss our proposed approach and seek feedback on our development of the National Infrastructure Plan. These are tentatively scheduled to be held in Hastings (6 Nov), Christchurch (12 Nov), Wellington (14 Nov), and Auckland (19). We have sent an invite to your office asking that you open the 14 Nov event in Wellington.
Transport Group New Zealand – Central branch	6 November	Nadine Dodge, Team Leader IPP, will be on a panel discussing transport modelling.
IPP Webinar - Preparing your application	6 November	This is a webinar for potential submitters to help them prepare applications. This is part of a series of webinars being led by our IPP team.
South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group	11 November	Peter Nunns, Acting General Manager – Strategy, will present to the committee on the development of the National Infrastructure Plan, including providing an update on the National Infrastructure Pipeline and the Infrastructure Priorities Programme.
Dinner with Infrastructure Partnerships Australia	11 November	Geoff Cooper, CE, will be attending this dinner with Adrian Dwyer, hosted by the High Commissioner. Hon Nicola Willis will also attend.
Webinar on Congestion Charging, Helen Clark Foundation	20 November	Nadine Dodge, Team Leader IPP, will be moderating this webinar.

Event	Event date	Description (attending/presenting/purpose)
IPP Webinar – Understanding the IPP assessment criteria	27 November	This is a webinar for potential submitters to help them prepare applications. This is part of a series of webinars being led by our IPP team.
Presentation to LGNZ National Council	6 December	Geoff Cooper, CE, has been asked to be a guest speaker to discuss the development of the National Infrastructure Plan, along with some of the Commission’s research on insurance of infrastructure against natural disasters.
Preparing your IPP application - AMA		This is a webinar for potential submitters to help them prepare applications. This is part of a series of webinars being led by our IPP team.
Building and Construction Sector Event	18 February 2025	Geoff Cooper, CE, will be the guest speaker at ‘Industry Pace’ that is a networking event hosted by Carter Holt Harvey and J. A. Russell for a cross-section of industry stakeholders. There will be about 150 people at the event, which will be at the Ellerslie Event Centre in Auckland.

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
NIP: Policy and system reforms	Mid-November	Provides the scope and approach to the development of recommended policy and system reforms for the National Infrastructure Plan.	tbc
Briefings re reports and publications			
Research report on insurance of infrastructure against natural disasters	Mid-November	Provides a heads up on our approach for publishing this report, which 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.	tbc

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
None			

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
Q1 Quarterly Report	End of October	Provides an update of our progress on key aspects of our work programme, and performance against the SPE.	N/A
Pipeline snapshot report	29 October	We will release an update on the Pipeline, for the period June-September 2024, in conjunction with our monthly newsletter.	31 October
Annual report	Before 30 November	Provides the Commission's report on financial and non-financial performance for FY24.	We have scheduled to provide you with our Annual Report on 20 November 2024. You must then present the Annual Report to the House within 5 working days (or, if Parliament is not in session, as soon as possible after the commencement of the next session).

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)				

Lead Minister	Description	Date due to your office	Committee	Timeframe
s9(2)(g)(i)				

Lead Minister	Description	Date due to your office	Committee	Timeframe
s9(2)(g)(i)				

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
26 September	s9(2)(a)	Copies of recent briefings and weekly reports	Sent 16 October	24 October
9 October		All communications, briefings, advice, aide memoires, on Dunedin hospital upgrades for the past year	30 October	6 November
14 October		Correspondence between your Office and responsible departments/agencies only [regarding international travel opportunities]. For clarity, I'm not interested in correspondence regarding organising the details of a trip (for example flight details, hotel details etc	Sent 15 October	Not specified

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
25 September	s9(2)(a)	Original request: "Any information on resource consenting timeframes in New Zealand [including] briefings/memos/aide memoires that have been developed in relation to how long resource consents typically take from application to approval and also time to those projects being finished". Refined on 26 September to just capture any advice (aides memoire, briefings, memos, etc) that has been prepared for Ministers on the issue of consenting times.	24 October
12 September		All advice on Government Policy Statement on Land Transport and National Land Transport Programme	Extended to 1 November

Date received	Correspondent	Description of request	Date due to send
3 October	s9(2)(a)	A copy of the unredacted version of the “New Dunedin Hospital Review, Independent Expert Readiness Review”, Report (Report), dated 30 May 2024 which may also be commonly known as the Hospital Rust Review, noting extensive public interest in the withheld information	1 November (urgency requested under s12(3) of the OIA)
8 October		Release the redacted sections [of the NDH Review report] as there is very strong public interest, and in the interests of transparency, there should be full disclosure.	6 November
15 October		Copies of the documents related to the additional assurance requirements agreed by the Minister of Finance and Minister of Health [for New Dunedin Hospital]	13 November

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	TW lead
Weekly infrastructure officials meeting	21 October, 3:30-4:15pm	Minister, infrastructure officials	Agenda tbc	Geoff Cooper
Going for Housing Growth officials meeting	24 October, 11am-noon	Minister Bishop and officials	Agenda tbc	Peter Nunns
Follow-up meeting with industry leaders	November (tbc)	Minister	tbc	Andy Hagan
Long-term police infrastructure meeting	November (tbc)	Minister, officials tbc	Agenda tbc	Andy Hagan
Weekly infrastructure officials meeting	4 November, 3:30-4:15pm	Minister, infrastructure officials		Geoff Cooper

Meeting	Meeting date	Who will be attending/presenting	Comment / action	TW lead
Infrastructure and Investment Ministers Group	12 November, 7-8pm	Hons Bishop (Chair), Willis, Brown, Jones and US Court Papers are due to Tsy Sec by 29 October	Agenda tbc	Geoff Cooper
Auckland panel event on infrastructure (hosted by Stuff)	Week beginning 26 November tbc	Potentially the Minister, Hon Shane Jones, Hon Barbara Edmonds (all tbc)	Speech to be commissioned – likely using standard stump messages	John Summers

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	TW lead
Infrastructure and Investment Ministers Group	12 November, 7-8pm	Hons Bishop (Chair), Willis, Brown, Jones and US Court Papers are due to Tsy Sec by 29 October	Agenda tbc	Geoff Cooper

[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
Taking care of Tomorrow Today: An Asset Management State of Play	Research report	Week of 28 October	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 [TW-2024-338 refers].
Pipeline Snapshot	Report	31 October	Our regular update on the Infrastructure Pipeline.
Introducing water meters	Case studies	1 November	Includes foreword from us, followed by case studies which look into some of the challenges and lessons learned when water meters were introduced in Kapiti and Nelson. Commissioned from Pat Dougherty, currently CE of Wellington Water. This will be published in conjunction with a webinar hosted by LGNZ [TW-2024-423 refers].
Delivering better value and better outcomes: changing practices in infrastructure delivery	Delivery guidance	Early November	Based on best international practice, this report points to ‘lowest price tender’ as generally giving poor long-term outcomes where major projects are concerned. And highlights some delivery principles that will help government become a better infrastructure client when conceiving, designing and building major infrastructure projects.
Towards better contracts	Delivery guidance	Early November	Contracts express and drive the relationship between client and delivery partner/s, and as such are a cornerstone of good projects. This report looks at New Zealand government contracting practice and the relationships this drives/supports from the perspective of a number of different agents: client, engineer, lawyer, contractor, etc – highlighting what they’ve said in structured interviews about this.

Testing our thinking: Developing an enduring National Infrastructure Plan (this is a working title for our discussion document)	Discussion document	5 November	This discussion document will share our initial thinking on the development of the National Infrastructure Plan and seek early feedback. The discussion document will draw upon the Commission's previous work, including the New Zealand Infrastructure Strategy and further evidence that we have gathered since then. We have provided you with an early draft this week [TW-2024-501 refers].
Insurance of infrastructure against natural disasters	Research Insight	Week of 2 December	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.
Aucklanders and their infrastructure	Research report	Week of 9 December	Using recently published research, this report will drill down into several pieces of our published research to provide Auckland-focused insights.

Appendix B: Key milestones for the National Infrastructure Plan

Date	Deliverable	Detail	Current Status
5 November 2024	Discussion Document: Testing our thinking: Developing an enduring National Infrastructure Plan	Initial engagement to test early thinking on the Plan, seek information from the sector that we can use to shape the Plan, and provide early public visibility to the proposed approach. This continues the conversation from the Infrastructure Strategy and the Commission's research programme.	We have shared a copy of the draft discussion document with the Minister. We are receiving feedback on the draft from key Government stakeholders.
Mid-November 2024	Draft plan outline	Outline for the structure of the Plan including early thinking on key issues.	A draft outline is being developed.
September to December 2024	Background reports for Infrastructure Needs Analysis	Technical report to inform the development of the Infrastructure Needs Analysis. Background Paper: 'Paying it forward: Understanding our long-term infrastructure needs' was published on 26 September.	Work is underway on a background report on insurance against natural hazards.
Early/Mid-December 2024	Interim Report: Infrastructure Needs Analysis	Initial report for targeted external engagement outlining the initial findings across all aspects of the Infrastructure Needs Analysis	Contracts have been procured to undertake work needed to inform the interim report. This includes advice on the risks to infrastructure from natural hazards and the investment needed for decarbonisation.
Mid-December 2024	Detailed Plan outline	Outline containing information and interim findings from each workstream and noting areas where further work is required.	Work is underway on all workstreams to enable a detailed plan outline to be produced.
February to April 2025	Stakeholder and public engagement	Targeted stakeholder engagement to continue to test out thinking. Interactive public engagement to raise awareness seek feedback on key themes and issues.	
February 2025	Plan options and preliminary recommendations	Plan options and preliminary recommendations will be discussed with the Infrastructure Commission Board and the Minister.	
March 2025	Draft international benchmarking report	Draft report benchmarking relative investment levels and, where possible, infrastructure outcomes against international peers.	
March/April 2025	Infrastructure Priorities Programme Assessment (Phase 1)	First phase of assessments provided to the Minister and then published on the Commission's website	
March/April 2025	Early draft of the Plan	An early draft of the Plan will be discussed with the Infrastructure Commission Board and the Minister.	
April 2025	Draft Infrastructure Needs Analysis	Draft Infrastructure Needs Analysis incorporating findings from all research	
Mid-May 2025	Draft plan for informal review	Draft of the plan provided to the Minister on a "no surprises" basis for informal review.	
End of June 2025	Draft plan for Minister's feedback and public consultation	Draft plan approved by the Infrastructure Commission Board, provided to the Minister for formal feedback, and released for public consultation.	
July/August 2025	Public consultation period	6 week public consultation period.	
August/September 2025	Infrastructure Priorities Programme Assessment (Phase 2)	Second phase of assessments provided to the Minister and then published on the Commission's website	
September 2025	Outcomes of consultation	Analysis of the outcomes of public consultation.	
End September 2025	Minister's feedback	Minister provides written feedback on the draft plan.	
Mid-November 2025	Update on final plan	Draft of the plan provided to the Minister on a "no surprises" basis.	
December 2025	Final plan	Final plan published and provided to the Minister to table in Parliament.	
Early 2026	Government response	Government formally responds to the Plan.	

Appendix C is withheld in full under s9(2)(g)(i)