

Infrastructure weekly update

For the week starting 14 October 2024



To: Hon Chris Bishop, Minister for Infrastructure

Minister's comments:

Table of Contents

- 1. Actions arising from previous meetings 2
- 2. Key issues and updates 3
 - 2.1. Cabinet paper on enhancements to the PPP Framework 3
 - 2.2. National Infrastructure Plan 3
 - 2.3. Ministerial meeting on climate adaptation on 15 October 4
 - 2.4. Upcoming events 5
- 3. Upcoming advice 7
 - 3.1. Upcoming briefings and aides memoire for the Minister 7
 - 3.2. Upcoming briefings and aides memoire for the Parliamentary Under-Secretary 8
 - 3.3. Monitoring and performance reports 8
 - 3.4. Upcoming Cabinet papers 9
 - 3.5. Ministerial Official Information Act requests 11
 - 3.6. Departmental Official Information Act requests 11
 - 3.7. Upcoming Ministerial meetings 12
 - 3.8. Upcoming meetings for the Parliamentary Under-Secretary 13
- Appendix A: List of upcoming reports and publications 15
- Appendix B: Key milestones for the National Infrastructure Plan 16

1. Actions arising from previous meetings

Meeting date	Agreed action	By whom	By when	Status
20 August IIMG	Bring a paper on the National Infrastructure Plan to a future IIMG meeting	TW	Scheduled for the 15 October IIMG meeting	Sent to Treasury IIMG Secretariat 1 October
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
23 September infrastructure officials meeting	Support the office to send letters on the NIP to Ministers and government agencies	TW	27 September	Completed 27 September

2. Key issues and updates

2.1. Cabinet paper on enhancements to the PPP Framework

We have worked with your office to finalise content for this Cabinet paper and the discussion document, and provided talking points to support you and Under-Secretary Court to present this paper to the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee (EXP) on 15 October. We are also in the process of setting up a briefing for Hon Barbara Edmonds to brief her on the PPP model.

Andy Hagan, General Manager, Delivery

2.2. 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 for your feedback and discussion at the officials meeting on 14 October [TW-2024-501 refers]. The purpose of the document is to begin our conversation with the sector on the National Infrastructure Plan and to:

- test key concepts and ideas at an early stage;
- use it as a mechanism for having targeted conversations with the sector; and
- lay the foundations for the emerging narrative of the Plan.

In releasing a discussion document early in the Plan's development, we are following the same consultation process that worked successfully in the development of the 2022 Infrastructure Strategy (ie, the release of the discussion document, followed by the draft Strategy, then the final Strategy).

We intend to publish the document on 5 November ahead for our regional stakeholder events. 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 stakeholder events will allow us to hear as broad a range of views as possible. These will be held in Auckland, Hastings, Wellington and Christchurch during November.

We would welcome your attendance at one or more of these events and are working with your office to coordinate this. We are coordinating with Infrastructure New Zealand in planning these events to ensure we reach key stakeholders. We will also host a webinar to ensure there is an online opportunity for people to learn more about the development of the Plan.

We will issue a media statement when we launch the discussion document, and promote it on social media. We will provide your office with copies of the media materials ahead of the launch date. If desired, we can also draft a media statement for you to release.

We have shared a copy of the draft discussion document with the Treasury and have incorporated their initial feedback. We will continue to work with them and other key infrastructure agencies to reflect their views ahead of finalising the draft. We will also share the draft discussion document with members of the government forum ahead of release to ensure consistency of key messages and identify any issues. The discussion document will be the focus of the next forum session on 21 October.

You may also wish to provide a copy to Under Secretary Court for his feedback, and a copy of the next draft to Infrastructure Ministers for their information.

Infrastructure Priorities Programme

We continue to engage with infrastructure providers on the Infrastructure Priorities Programme (IPP). As requested, we have provided you with a revised aide memoire with more detail on the IPP and how projects will be assessed by the programme [TW-2024-500 refers]. This aide memoire is on the agenda for discussion at the officials meeting on 14 October.

Infrastructure Needs Analysis

We have finalised contracts for external support on two key pieces of work to quantify long-term drivers of infrastructure need:

- *Decarbonising our economy*: we have engaged the Motu Institute to assist us with modelling and quantifying future investment needs to meet New Zealand's emissions goals.
- *Natural hazard risk*: we have engaged GNS Science to quantify natural hazard risk and potential damages to the country's infrastructure assets by sector and by hazard type.

Having finalised these two contracts, we can now confirm a timeline of updates to you:

- In early December, we will provide an update on initial findings from the modelling of natural hazard risks to infrastructure.
- Later in December, we will provide you an update detailing preliminary results from the work on infrastructure investment need for decarbonisation of our economy.

Outside of finalising these contracts, on 3 October, we held the first meeting of a reference group established to assist us on long-term infrastructure investment needs to support decarbonisation. Composed of a diverse group of government and private sector participants with significant experience in this area, the group is advising us on approaches to quantifying infrastructure investment need to meet our emissions goals. This reference group will continue to meet bi-weekly through mid-December.

Peter Nunns, Acting General Manager, Strategy

2.3. Ministerial meeting on climate adaptation on 15 October

The Minister of Climate Change has invited you to a meeting on Tuesday 15 October, with Ministers Willis, Brown, Mitchell, Jones and US Court, to provide an introduction to the Adaptation Framework.

This meeting is important for the infrastructure portfolio. Optimal investment in managing existing infrastructure assets is essential for ensuring the resilience of infrastructure and its ongoing adaptation to the risks posed by climate change. Similarly, the way infrastructure is planned, and investment is prioritised, for resilience (and adaptation) has significant impact on our economy and the functioning of our communities.

The purpose of Tuesday's meeting is to discuss recommendations from the Select Committee Inquiry into Climate Adaptation and to hear from the Independent Reference Group providing advice on the Adaptation Framework. The policy lead is the Ministry for the Environment.

The Adaptation Framework focuses on improved access to hazard data and a set of principles to guide investment by the Crown, local government and property owners in risk reduction and community relocation. These principles are relevant for the provision of resilient infrastructure as they include approaches for cost-sharing (with a focus on residential property buy-outs) and risk mitigation.

You are responsible for a range of policies across your portfolios related to the Framework (including correcting market failures s9(2)(f)(iv)).

Examples of your related portfolio policies include:

- Critical Infrastructure Reform – will improve understanding of natural hazard risks by both Government and infrastructure owners. s9(2)(f)(iv)
 (particularly for local government owned assets, where the Crown bears 60 per cent of restoration costs).
- NPS-Natural Hazards – s9(2)(f)(iv)
- NPS-Infrastructure – s9(2)(f)(iv)
- Going for Housing Growth – s9(2)(f)(iv)
- The National Infrastructure Plan – will estimate demand for adaptation-related investment and additional means of managing fiscal risk associated with the resilience of infrastructure.

The Adaptation Framework will set the principles and enabling information settings to underpin further policy on climate change response. Your portfolios, including the policy initiatives above, will all play a part in implementing the Climate Change Strategy (resilient infrastructure pillar) and the Government response to the Climate Change Commission’s progress review of the National Adaptation Plan (due February 2025).

Tuesday’s meeting is primarily for your initial introduction to the Adaptation Framework. We will have an InfraCom official in attendance and subsequently can provide further advice about the Framework’s significance for the infrastructure system, as needed.

Barbara Tebbs, General Manager, Policy

2.4. 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)
National Lifeline Utilities Forum, Christchurch	17-18 October	Geoff Cooper, CE, will be delivering a keynote speech on the topic of ‘Making the Case for Change’ that will include a discussion on the National Infrastructure Plan, along with some of the Commission’s research on insurance of infrastructure against natural disasters. We understand that Under Secretary Court is also scheduled to speak.
Infrastructure Priorities Programme webinar	23 October	We will be hosting another general overview of the Infrastructure Priorities Programme (IPP) for potential submitters. These are 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’.
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 snr water staff.

Event	Event date	Description (attending/presenting/purpose)
National Infrastructure Plan – four stakeholder engagement events	6 to 14 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 (TBC). We will work with your office on options for you to attend one or more of these events.
Transport Group New Zealand – Central branch	6 November	Nadine Dodge, Principal Economist, will be on a panel discussing transport modelling.
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, Principal Economist, will be moderating this webinar.
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.
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: Further detail on the Infrastructure Priorities Programme (IPP) [TW-2024-500]	Sent 10 October	This is a revised version of TW-2024-489. As requested, it provides more information about the benefits of the IPP and the trial of the Assessment Framework as part of Budget 2024.	14 October (for discussion at the officials meeting on 14 October)
NIP: Draft discussion document: <i>Testing our thinking: Developing an enduring National Infrastructure Plan</i> [TW-2024-501]	Sent 11 October	Provides you with a briefing on the proposed discussion document that will be released for stakeholder feedback in early November.	21 October (and for discussion at the officials meeting on 14 October)
Draft Government Policy Statement on foreign investment [TW-2024-504]	Sent 11 October	This aide memoire responds to a request from your office to provide input for your reply to a letter from the Associate Minister of Finance, Hon David Seymour. The letter refers to an upcoming reform of the Overseas Investment Act and development of a draft Government Policy Statement on foreign investment.	21 October
NIP: Policy and system reforms	24 October	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	October (tbc)	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
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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
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	16 October	24 October
9 October		All communications, briefings, advice, aide memoires, on Dunedin hospital upgrades for the past year	30 October	6 November

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	24 October

Date received	Correspondent	Description of request	Date due to send
	s9(2)(a)	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.	
12 September		All advice on Government Policy Statement on Land Transport and National Land Transport Programme	Extended to 1 November
3 October		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

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	14 October, 8:15-9am	Minister, infrastructure officials	Agenda tbc,	Geoff Cooper
Going for Housing Growth officials meeting	14 October, 6-6:45pm	Minister Bishop and officials	Agenda tbc	Peter Nunns
Introduction to the Adaptation Framework	15 October, 3:15-3:45pm	The Minister of Climate Change, Ministers Willis, Brown, Mitchell, Jones and US Court	See item 2.3 above	Barbara Tebbs
Infrastructure and Investment Ministers Group	15 October, 7-8pm	Hons Bishop (Chair), Willis, Brown, Jones and US Court Papers are due to Tsy Sec by 1 October	Agenda tbc – includes NIP	Geoff Cooper

Meeting	Meeting date	Who will be attending/presenting	Comment / action	TW lead
Monthly meeting between the Minister and US Court	16 October, 5:30-6pm	Minister Bishop and US Court, officials tbc	Agenda tbc – likely includes NPS-Infrastructure	Andy Hagan / Barbara Tebbs
Weekly infrastructure officials meeting	21 October tbc	Minister, infrastructure officials	Agenda tbc	Geoff Cooper
Going for Housing Growth officials meeting	23 October, 3:30-4:30pm	Minister Bishop and officials	Agenda tbc	Peter Nunns
Follow-up meeting with industry leaders	October (tbc)	Minister	tbc	Andy Hagan
Long-term police infrastructure meeting	October (tbc)	Minister, officials tbc	Agenda tbc	Andy Hagan
Weekly infrastructure officials meeting	4 November, 3:30-4:15pm	Minister, infrastructure officials		Geoff Cooper
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	26 November tbc	Minister	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
Introduction to the Adaptation Framework	15 October, 3:15-3:45pm	The Minister of Climate Change, Ministers Willis, Brown, Mitchell, Jones and US Court	See item 2.3 above	Barbara Tebbs
Infrastructure and Investment Ministers Group	15 October, 7-8pm	Hons Bishop (Chair), Willis, Brown, Jones and US Court	Agenda tbc – includes NIP	Geoff Cooper

Meeting	Meeting date	Who will be attending/presenting	Comment / action	TW lead
			Papers are due to Tsy Sec by 1 October	
Monthly meeting between the Minister and US Court	16 October, 5:30-6pm	Minister Bishop and US Court, officials tbc	Agenda tbc	Andy Hagan / Barbara Tebbs
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	Mid to late 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].
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].
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	Early 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	TBC Q4 2024	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
Early November 2024	Discussion Document: Stakeholder engagement	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 you. The engagement period is scheduled to commence in early November 2024.
Mid-November 2024	Draft plan outline	Outline for the structure of the Plan including early thinking on key issues.	Draft outline is being developed - this will be delivered in November after the Discussion Document is released.
September to December 2024	Background reports on 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.
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
Mid-December 2024	Detailed Plan outline	Outline containing information and interim findings from each workstream and noting areas where further work is required.	
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.	