

# Infrastructure weekly update

For the week starting 8 July 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
25 June	Draft a Cabinet paper on the National Infrastructure Plan	TW	4 July	Completed – draft provided 4 July
25 June	Schedule session with Minister to discuss NIP	MO	asap	Scheduled for 8-9am on 11 July
25 June	Provide advice on US Court’s delegations re PPP project candidates	TW	asap	Completed - delivered 27 June

## 2. Key issues and updates

### 2.1. Draft Cabinet Paper on the National Infrastructure Agency

We have provided feedback on the draft NIA Cabinet paper to the Treasury as part of agency consultation. Our feedback takes as given our understanding of your decisions on the direction of the NIA.

Our general feedback covered the need for clarity on the role of the NIA in the new system, potential risks (and mitigants) of creating natural monopolies in the infrastructure system, future improvements to assurance, the mechanism to assess agency delivery capability and its interaction with the pipeline of future Rau Paenga projects, and being clearer on the fiscal impacts of the proposed cost recovery model.

We also highlighted some Commission-specific aspects of the paper, including recommending changes to clarify that only the Commission's PPP responsibilities will transfer to the NIA, that we do not consider legislative change is needed to give effect to your decisions, that our second opinion policy advice role should not be limited to an 'on request' basis, and that transferring policy responsibility for the PPP model should occur subsequent to completion of the current model review to limit delivery risks.

*Andy Hagan, General Manager, Infrastructure Delivery*

### 2.2. 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)
New Zealand Association of Economists Conference	3-5 July	Peter Nunns, Director – Economics, and members of the Economics team (Nadine Dodge, Graham Campbell and Ezra Barson-McLean) are attending and presenting the NZAE Conference in Wellington. They are offering an Infrastructure Commission Themed Session chaired by Peter covering three topics based on past and current Commission research: 1) A history of debt and infrastructure investment 2) Preparing infrastructure for natural disasters: What role for insurance? 3) Does how we price infrastructure affect what we need to build.
Building Tomorrow: Innovation in Civil Construction Training Panel	4 July	This panel discussion is hosted by the Construction and Infrastructure Centre of Vocational Excellence, and will discuss the need to align training with industry demand as well as innovative approaches to civil construction training. Nicola Richardson, Director Leadership, will be speaking.
EBI live session – Infrastructure Priorities Programme – developing the Assessment Framework	9 July	Geoff Cooper, General Manager – Strategy, and Peter Nunns, Director – Economics, will lead a member-only online discussion for the Institution of Civil Engineers-led Enabling Better Infrastructure (EBI) programme. The discussion will focus on development of the assessment framework for the IPP to date.
Webinar on the Infrastructure Priorities	10 July	Webinar led by Peter Nunns, Director – Economics, and Nadine Dodge, Team Leader – Infrastructure Priorities

Programme for central government organisations		Programme, to introduce and explain the Infrastructure Priorities Programme to central government agencies prior to its launch.
Water Utilities Association Meeting	17 July	Geoff Cooper, Acting Chief Executive, to speak to this group about the role of pricing to support sustainable water services.
Quarry NZ Conference	18 July	Geoff Cooper, Acting Chief Executive, will be speaking at this event and sharing the Commission’s work on aggregate modelling.
LGNZ Conference	23 August	Peter Nunns, Director Economics is part of a panel discussion about the structure of local government.
Building Nations 2024 (Infrastructure NZ annual conference)	28-29 August	Geoff Cooper, Acting Chief Executive, or Andy Hagan, General Manager Delivery, will speak and/or be on a panel.

*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 <a href="#">tracking number</a>	Date due to your office	What this advice covers	Deadline for Minister’s feedback
Cabinet paper consultation re accelerated delivery of the Northland Corridor RoNS [TW-2024-439]	Sent 4 July	Outlines feedback we have provided to the Ministry of Transport and NZTA on this draft Cabinet paper, to inform Ministerial consultation.	5 July
Draft Cabinet paper on the National Infrastructure Plan [TW-2024-440]	Sent 4 July	Provides a first draft of a Cabinet paper for your consideration, to update your colleagues on the purpose and scope of the National Infrastructure Plan, including a cross-agency approach for its development.	11 July (for discussion at the meeting scheduled for 8am)
IIMG update on the workplan for PPP model and policy enhancement [TW-2024-442]	Sent 4 July	Copied to you for your feedback on a draft paper (from US Court) for the next Infrastructure Investment Ministers Group (IIMG) meeting on 23 July, to provide an update on the workplan to modernise the Crown’s PPP model and policies.	8 July (papers are due to Tsy on 9 July)
Next steps on infrastructure national direction	tbc	Joint briefing from TW, MfE and MBIE officials to the Ministers of/for RMA Reform, Infrastructure, Local Government and Undersecretary Court setting out proposed next steps for the national direction work programme.	tbc
<b>Briefings re reports and publications</b>			
None			

### 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 <a href="#">tracking number</a>	Date due to your office	What this advice covers	Deadline for US’s feedback
IIMG update on the workplan for PPP model and policy enhancement [TW-2024-442]	4 July	Invites your feedback on content for a paper for the next Infrastructure Investment Ministers Group (IIMG) meeting on 23 July, to provide an update on the workplan to modernise the Crown’s PPP model and policies.	8 July (papers are due to Tsy on 9 July)
Next steps on infrastructure national direction	tbc	Joint briefing from TW, MfE and MBIE officials to the Ministers of/for RMA Reform, Infrastructure, Local Government and Undersecretary Court setting out proposed next steps for the national direction work programme.	Tbc

### 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
Q4 Quarterly Report	End of July	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	N/A

### 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
<p data-bbox="168 288 280 320">s9(2)(g)(i)</p>				

[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.]

### 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
30 May	s9(2)(a)	Documents listed in WPQ 10615 (2024) [Tsy is coordinating this. We provided our input on 31 May.]	21 June	Extended to 12 July
31 May	s9(2)(a)	Documents provided to the Minister between 5 April and 8 May 2024 [The decision re release of doc 1 of this request depends on Joint Ministers' decision on a preferred option for release of the NDH Review and ToR [TW-2024-435 refers]]	21 June TW input sent 24 June – but doc 1 needs to be re-assessed.	Extended to 12 July

### 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
2 July	s9(2)(a)	The list of projections that make up the Commission's latest infrastructure pipeline snapshot.	30 July

### 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
Officials meeting	8 July, 3.30pm	Minister, infrastructure officials		Ross Copland
Kaitaia business lunch	9 July	tbc	tbc	

Meeting	Meeting date	Who will be attending/presenting	Comment / action	TW lead
Meeting to discuss the National Infrastructure Plan	11 July, 8am	Minister, InfraCom, Treasury	As requested by the Minister on 25 June	Geoff Cooper
Officials meeting	15 July, 3.30pm	Minister, infrastructure officials		Geoff Cooper
Officials meeting	22 July, 1.30pm	Minister, infrastructure officials		Geoff Cooper
Infrastructure and Investment Ministers Group	23 July, 7-8pm	Hons Bishop (Chair), Willis, Brown, Jones and US Court	PPP model, city and regional deals on the agenda. Papers are due to Tsy on 9 July.	Andy Hagan
Going for Housing Growth	24 July, 11.45am	Minister Bishop and housing officials		
Fortnightly meeting: InfraCom Chair and Minister	29 July, 1.45-2pm	Regular fortnightly 1:1 (ahead of standing officials meeting)		Alan Bollard
Infrastructure and Investment Ministers Group	20 August, 7-8pm	Hons Bishop (Chair), Willis, Brown, Jones and US Court	An update on the NIP is on the agenda.	Andy Hagan

### 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	23 July, 7-8pm	Hons Bishop (Chair), Willis, Brown, Jones and US Court	PPP model, city and regional deals on the agenda. Papers are due to Tsy on 9 July.	Andy Hagan
Infrastructure and Investment Ministers Group	20 August, 7-8pm	Hons Bishop (Chair), Willis, Brown, Jones and US Court	NIP is on the agenda.	Andy Hagan

## 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
Water metering and leakage	Research report	Week of 22 July 2024	Examines the economic and societal benefits of using water metering and volumetric charging to help solve water network-related challenges. This report and the Transport pricing case studies paper below will be released together. [TW-2024-423 refers.]
Transport pricing case studies	Research report	Week of 22 July 2024	This looks at experience of tolling, congestion charging and other forms of pricing and demand management [TW-2024-423 refers].
Transparency response paper	Response to research	Week of 22 July 2024	This report analyses the possible actions the Government could make in response to the Infrastructure Commission’s work on transparency in projects. A briefing on this was provided to the Minister on 26 March [TW-2024-339 refers].
Taking care of Tomorrow Today: An Asset Management State of Play	Research report	TBC August 2024	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.
Introducing water meters	Case studies	TBC August 2024	Includes foreword from us, followed by water metering case studies in Kapiti and Nelson commissioned from Pat Dougherty, Director Wellington Water. [TW-2024-423 refers.]

s18(d)