

Better Decisions & Better Delivery

Australian Infrastructure Plan

February 2016

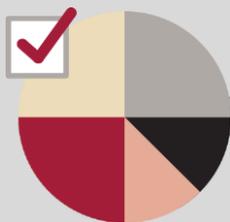
The Australian Infrastructure Plan outlines a program of reforms to improve the quality of infrastructure planning, decision-making and delivery.



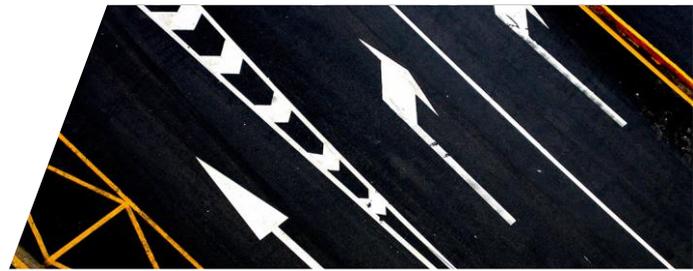
Recent history provides examples of governments committing to projects before detailed planning and economic analysis has been done, not releasing the full business case for multi-billion dollar investments, or failing to collect and benchmark valuable data once projects have been completed.



Failure to select the best solution can inflict a considerable cost on taxpayers and users. International and local authorities have all emphasised that improving infrastructure productivity comes from selecting the right projects and delivering those projects efficiently.



There are many opportunities where valuable data on infrastructure is not collected or analysed. Where it is, there are often issues of consistency and comparability between jurisdictions and over time.



Actions

- Governments need to establish a more rigorous evidence base for infrastructure investment decisions. Key steps include: increasing the quality and consistency of long-term infrastructure planning; deepening stakeholder engagement; allocating increased funding for project development work, such as business cases; improving the transparency of decision-making and ensuring the consistent delivery of post-completion reviews.
- The Australian Government will have an important role to play in driving best practice. Infrastructure Australia will develop a set of National Governance Principles, which will outline best practice infrastructure decision-making processes and frameworks. The Australian Government should make the provision of project funding contingent on compliance with these Principles.
- The Australian Government, in partnership with state and territory governments, should establish effective corridor protection mechanisms to ensure the timely preservation of land needed for future infrastructure priorities.
- The Australian Government should develop a national *Infrastructure Performance Measurement Framework* to provide routine measurement of the performance of Australia's infrastructure projects, networks and systems. Once in place, the Framework will enable the Australian infrastructure sector to identify which infrastructure projects, practices and reforms work well – and why.
- The infrastructure sector should better capitalise on new technologies to improve the planning, delivery, and maintenance of infrastructure. Governments should make the use of Building Information Modelling – which enables the generation of three-dimensional models of buildings, infrastructure and places – mandatory for the design and delivery of large-scale, complex projects.