

# Sustainability and Resilience

Australian Infrastructure Plan

February 2016

The Australian Infrastructure Plan outlines a program of reforms to support the transition to a more sustainable economy and ensure our infrastructure is resilient to dynamic risks.



We need to improve the sustainability of our infrastructure. While we have made strong progress in improving the efficiency of our infrastructure, more work is required to meet our international commitments.



Infrastructure-related emissions account for half of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions, mainly from the electricity sector (33 per cent) and the transport sector (17 per cent).



Extreme weather events, inadequate maintenance, accidents and cyber-attacks pose major risks to our infrastructure assets. The capacity of our infrastructure to continue operating through minor disruptions, and recover quickly from major disruptions, will be critical to supporting people and businesses over coming decades.



## Actions

- Improving the sustainability of our infrastructure often simply means using networks more efficiently. Operators should make smarter use of transport networks by spreading peak demand or shifting passengers and freight to their most efficient mode, reducing time and costs for users.
- Energy and water providers should seek to improve sustainability by making better use of infrastructure, such as using technology to identify and minimise leaks and losses, to ultimately deliver lower prices for consumers.
- Governments should provide active transport (walking and cycling) infrastructure that is connected, safe and encourages a shift towards a more sustainable transport network. Where it has not already happened, governments should integrate active transport strategies with wider land-use and infrastructure planning.
- Reducing emissions in our electricity and transport sectors should be a key part of delivering reductions in line with international commitments, given these sectors account for half of all our greenhouse gas emissions. Governments of all levels should consult with industry and clearly communicate reforms so that the private sector can cost-effectively reduce their environmental impact over time.
- Governments should continue to encourage innovation and growth in renewable and lower-emission technologies. Governments should work with the private sector to develop a cohesive strategy that supports a transition to lower emissions at the lowest cost to users and taxpayers.
- The resilience of networks needs to be enhanced through planning and coordination to diversify the supply of services, and to ensure that faults and failures can be isolated and resolved quickly. Regulators should ensure that responses to threats are proportionate and efficient.