



Infrastructure Australia Call for Submissions: Submissions Guide

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Infrastructure Australia

Infrastructure Australia is a statutory advisory council with twelve members drawn from industry and government, including five from the private sector. Infrastructure Australia is supported by an Infrastructure Coordinator, within the Australian Government's Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government portfolio. Infrastructure Australia provides advice to governments, investors and owners of infrastructure on the following:

- Australia's current and future needs and priorities relating to nationally significant infrastructure.
- Policy, pricing and regulatory issues that may impact on the utilisation of infrastructure.
- Impediments to the efficient utilisation of national infrastructure networks.
- Options and reforms, including regulatory reforms, to make the utilisation of national infrastructure networks more efficient.
- The needs of users of infrastructure.
- Mechanisms for financing investment in infrastructure.

Infrastructure Australia's immediate tasks are to:

- Conduct an audit to determine the adequacy, capacity and condition of nationally significant water, transport, energy, and communications infrastructure.
- Produce an Infrastructure Priority List.
- Produce best practice, nationally consistent guidelines for Public Private Partnerships.

Infrastructure Australia is also in a position to provide advice on the harmonisation of policies, and laws, relating to development of, utilisation of, and investment in, infrastructure. Infrastructure Australia will also guide the allocation of the Federal Government's Building Australia Fund. Infrastructure Australia's focus is on infrastructure issues of significance to **national** productivity.

1.2 Purpose of this Document

This guide has been drafted to guide people on how to prepare and lodge their submissions to inform the tasks and agenda of Infrastructure Australia.

2. CONTEXT

Australia has a long and successful history of economic development and growth. It has a high quality of life by world standards, enjoying stability and relative security, making it one of the best places to live, work and raise a family.

In the future, Australia wants to continuously improve the living standards and quality of life of current and future generations by achieving sustainable economic growth, protecting the environment, and providing opportunity and fairness for our most disadvantaged. Infrastructure has played a critical role in Australia's past economic development, and this

must continue into the future. Without adequate infrastructure, further enhancement of our standard of living could be severely constrained.

Our national infrastructure — including the roads, rail, ports, airports, waterways, grids, cables and communication networks that criss-cross Australia — is the platform for future growth and prosperity. To build a modern, dynamic economy, Australia needs world-class infrastructure, both through finding ways to better use its infrastructure and to identify opportunities for new capital investment. The development of Australia's infrastructure to improve our standard of living must not, however, come at the expense of our environment and our social objectives.

Infrastructure Australia's call public submissions aims to prompt input regarding how to foster an environment in which infrastructure spending decisions can maximise their effectiveness in delivering on economic, social, and environmental objectives.

3. GUIDE TO THE SUBMISSIONS PROCESS

Submissions should be evidence-based, no more than 15 pages, accompanied by a cover sheet, and received by 15 October 2008. Submissions are to be sent to mail@infrastructureaustralia.gov.au with "Submission" in the subject field. Although email is preferred, submissions may be lodged via post and should be addressed to:

The Infrastructure Coordinator
Infrastructure Australia
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601
AUSTRALIA

All submissions will be treated as documents for the public domain unless clearly requested otherwise by the submitter. If you do not want your submission to be made public, please clearly mark "Confidential" on the front page of the submission and tick the relevant Confidentiality box on the cover sheet. Commercial in Confidence unsolicited proposals should be marked as such and will be considered by the Infrastructure Coordinator directly.

Infrastructure Australia considers confidentiality of great importance, but we are unable to guarantee confidentiality in circumstances where the confidential information:

- is disclosed in response to a request by any Commonwealth Minister;
- is disclosed in response to a request by a House or a Committee of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia;
- is disclosed by the Commonwealth to its advisers or employees solely to comply with Commonwealth obligations, or to exercise Commonwealth rights;
- is disclosed to internal management personnel, solely to enable effective management or auditing of Commonwealth activities; and
- is shared within a particular Commonwealth organisation, or with another Commonwealth agency, where this serves legitimate Commonwealth interests.

4. GUIDE TO SUBMISSION PREPARATION

4.1 Why read the discussion papers?

One of the goals of Infrastructure Australia is to facilitate public discussion of how the nation can better plan, finance, build and use major infrastructure. During the early phases of Infrastructure Australia's activities, it also became clear that members of the community, including people working in industry and government, have both ideas and information potentially of great value to the work being undertaken. Infrastructure Australia drafted discussion papers in order to prompt debate and prompt contributions of ideas and information. The papers also provide a framework for how to craft submissions that are robust so that Infrastructure Australia can give the ideas arising from community submissions the deepest consideration possible.

In order for Infrastructure Australia to best understand and consider the full nature of problems and opportunities presented, it is important to discuss certain issues. Each issue for discussion is framed as a question within the discussion papers. The sequence of questions has been crafted as a guide to authors on how to sequence and present content within their submissions. Submissions that use the questions as headings are very welcome.

The two discussion papers are available from www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au. This guide is also available from the same web page.

4.2 What is the scope?

Infrastructure Australia is interested in understanding problems and potential solutions to infrastructure related issues of **national significance**. It is not a requirement for submissions to encompass the entire breadth of national issues. Submissions focused on providing rich detail and evidence relating to a specific concern, industry, or type of infrastructure are very welcome. Discussion Paper 1 ("Australia's Future Infrastructure Requirements") provides an overview of the scope of infrastructure encompassed by the Infrastructure Australia agenda. While physical and digital infrastructure is the focus of the *Infrastructure Australia* agenda, collaborative infrastructure is also critical to the 21st century economy.

These elements of infrastructure are rapidly becoming more and more significant as enablers of the Australian economy. *Infrastructure Australia* recognises the need to consider the potential for collaborative infrastructure to enable the achievement of additional economic, social, and economic outcomes from physical and digital infrastructure. While collaborative infrastructure is not the focus of the *Infrastructure Australia* audit, submissions are welcome if they pertain to collaborative infrastructure problems and potential solutions of **national significance** to economic productivity and which could enhance the efficiency of digital and physical infrastructure.

Further information is available within the discussion papers, which are available from www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au.

4.3 Are there other considerations?

Yes. Infrastructure Australia encourages authors to consider additional issues when preparing submissions. For example, issues such as copyright infringement, privacy, moral rights, and defamation are important for authors to consider during submissions development – especially when incorporating the work of others. A guide is provided as follows:

- Infrastructure Australia may publish the submissions it receives on the Infrastructure Australia website. Submissions will be treated as public documents and communicated to the public unless marked as confidential in this coversheet.
- We encourage **evidence-based** submissions. We will not accept any submissions that contain defamatory statements, that is, any statements which have the effect of causing damage to a person's reputation. If you make any defamatory statements in your submission then a legal proceeding for defamation may be used against you.
- Authors of submissions are responsible for securing the appropriate rights to use any third party material incorporated into their submissions.
- Submissions made by individual community members should not include any personal details other than your name, suburb, state/territory or country. For submissions made by organisations contact details may be included.

4. WHAT NEXT?

When each submission is received, *Infrastructure Australia* will give notice to the submitter that it has been received. Following the receipt and analysis of submissions, *Infrastructure Australia* will consider how to incorporate the resulting information and ideas into the advice it provides and into the immediate tasks at hand. Submissions may also inform plans for further stakeholder engagement. In addition to incorporating information and ideas into immediate business, *Infrastructure Australia* will prepare a submissions report for the Australian Community and the Council of Australian Governments. Submissions may also be drawn upon to assist with the identification, consideration, and planning of future tasks for *Infrastructure Australia's* 2009 agenda.