Infrastructure Australia

Remote & Indigenous Communities

Australian Infrastructure Plan

February 2016

The Australian Infrastructure Plan outlines a program of reforms to deliver infrastructure to remote communities that is well-coordinated, makes better use of new technology, and builds resilience and economic opportunities.

3%

Remote Australia makes up close to 90 per cent of our land mass but is home to only three per cent of Australians.

1 in 5 Indigenous   **1 in 50** Non-Indigenous

The challenges facing remote communities are particularly important for Indigenous Australians: one in five live there, compared to one in 50 non-Indigenous.

Many remote communities lack reliable energy supply, telecommunications, clean water and wastewater services, and adequate road access. Low population densities result in higher per capita construction and maintenance costs, while long distances drive up transport costs for people and freight

Actions

- All governments should work together to improve the coordination of essential service delivery and infrastructure investment via local, state and territory government.

- States and territories should tender the provision of economic infrastructure services and pool investments across communities to establish scale and attract more private sector innovation.

- All governments should work together with the private sector to replace diesel generation with renewable energy wherever affordable and efficient.

- All governments should develop tailored plans to maximise the benefits of the NBN for remote communities.

- All governments should consider investments that support the recent COAG investigation into land administration and use and the *White Paper on Developing Northern Australia* actions on land, which aim to increase the economic independence of remote Indigenous communities.

- All governments should make greater use of local expertise to sustain infrastructure investments, drawing on relevant Indigenous procurement policies and working with communities to better understand unique local characteristics and ensure infrastructure projects best meet their needs.