

Statement of Intent

January 2021

Infrastructure Australia advises government, industry and the community on the investments and reforms needed to deliver better infrastructure for all Australians.

As part of this, we will deliver:

- The **Australian Infrastructure Audit** at least every 5 years
- The **Australian Infrastructure Plan** at least every 5 years
- The **Infrastructure Priority List** at least annually
- **Business case evaluations** for project proposals that are nationally-significant or where Commonwealth funding of \$250 million or more is sought; and
- **Annual assessments of infrastructure market conditions and capacity.**

Collaborate with stakeholders across government, industry and the community

We will collaborate, engage and partner with key stakeholders, including all levels of government, infrastructure operators, industry organisations, research bodies and community groups.

Taking a leading role in efforts to streamline and harmonise assessment processes, we will work closely with national, state and territory infrastructure advisory bodies to support the efficient and timely delivery of infrastructure projects.

We will maintain our effective working relationship with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications. We will work with the Secretary of the Department to keep them informed of our work program and views to support the Department's development of its policy advice. For this purpose, we will share with the Department advice and reports submitted to our responsible Minister and Infrastructure portfolio Ministers.

Maintain a pipeline of nationally-significant infrastructure opportunities

Through the *Infrastructure Priority List*, we will maintain a pipeline of nationally significant investment opportunities. This includes investments that are needed in the near and medium term to respond to immediate challenges, as well as forward-thinking proposals that will deliver longer-term productivity and community benefits.

Developed through a transparent and merit-based assessment process, the Priority List will be updated regularly as new proposals are received and assessed by Infrastructure Australia. The Infrastructure Australia Assessment Framework provides clear guidance on how to submit proposals for consideration for the *Infrastructure Priority List*.

Enable the efficient and effective delivery of high-quality infrastructure investment

Taking into consideration the Australian Government's infrastructure objectives, we will provide timely, transparent and evidence-based project advice. The Infrastructure Australia Assessment Framework and our business case evaluation process will support robust decision-making and ensure project proposals are progressed efficiently.

To encourage effective project delivery and information-sharing, we will work with the Department to develop a framework to undertake post-completion reviews for nationally significant projects.

Support our stakeholders in demonstrating economic and social benefits

The Infrastructure Australia Assessment Framework will continue to support the development of business cases that capture wider project benefits, including environmental outcomes and improvements to quality of life. We will promote a greater focus on sustainability and resilience outcomes and improve our guidance on preparing proposals for infrastructure in regional and remote areas.

We will ensure that clear and appropriate processes are in place to consider proposals for complex city-shaping projects, and projects in regional, remote and Northern Australia, with strong strategic and community benefits. Our Framework will be reviewed every two years to ensure it represents contemporary approaches to business case evaluation and is responsive to stakeholder feedback. Our technical guidance will support best practice project evaluation, and support efficient and evidence-based investment decisions.

Developing an evidence base for productivity-enhancing infrastructure reform

Through the *Australian Infrastructure Audit*, *Australian Infrastructure Plan* and supplementary data and research projects, we will develop an evidence base for productivity-enhancing infrastructure reform.

We will adopt an approach that considers economic, social, environmental and governance outcomes for the community while prioritising access, quality and cost of infrastructure services for users.

We will maintain a focus on contemporary policy considerations, including immediate priorities of cities and regions, sustainability and resilience as well as industry capacity and capability. We will work collaboratively with jurisdictions and other stakeholders to deliver pragmatic and practical policy advice.

Strong governance to support how we deliver against our mandate

Infrastructure Australia's Board will continue to provide strategic and governance oversight to ensure the organisation meets the performance requirements detailed in the *Infrastructure Australia Act 2008* (Cth).

Complying with all relevant legislation and administrative policies, we will be accountable to the Parliament and the community through the responsible Minister and Parliamentary Committee processes. We will publish corporate plans on an annual basis and deliver an Annual Report to our responsible Minister for tabling in Parliament.

We will keep our responsible Minister informed of our governance and performance arrangements, and provide regular reports on our progress in providing high-quality advice on nationally significant infrastructure investment and reform opportunities.