

## **STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS – INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA**

This Statement of Expectations (SoE) outlines the Australian Government's expectations for an efficient and effective Infrastructure Australia, in accordance with its statutory functions and obligations under the *Infrastructure Australia Act 2008*, the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (and associated regulations), as well as other relevant legislation and legal instruments; to deliver high quality and independent advice on nationally significant infrastructure.

Nationally significant infrastructure is defined to include:

- Transport infrastructure
- Energy infrastructure
- Communications infrastructure, and
- Water infrastructure.

This SoE outlines the Australian Government's expectations for Infrastructure Australia to issues related to infrastructure investment and further investment that will materially improve national productivity with an increased focus on rural, regional and remote development.

The SoE reflects the governance and performance requirements specified in the *Infrastructure Australia Act 2008*.

### **RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE RESPONSIBLE MINISTER**

Infrastructure Australia will provide accurate and timely advice on infrastructure investment matters to assist Government decision-making processes. Infrastructure Australia will ensure the responsible Minister, and other relevant Ministers in the infrastructure portfolio are informed of significant actions relating to Infrastructure Australia's role, and alert Government to events or issues that may impact on the operations of Infrastructure Australia, including operational or budgetary.

### **THE ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA**

This SoE reflects the role of Infrastructure Australia as an independent, transparent and expert advisory body to governments, investors and infrastructure owners on matters relating to infrastructure including the following:

- Australia's current and future needs and priorities relating to nationally significant infrastructure, with an increased focus on remote, rural and regional development.
- Policy, pricing and regulatory issues that may impact on the utilisation of infrastructure.
- Options and reform, including regulatory reforms, to make the utilisation of national infrastructure networks more efficient.
- Impediments to the efficient utilisation of national infrastructure networks.

### **THE FUNCTIONS OF INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA**

Infrastructure Australia's functions include audit, review, evaluation, research and promotion of nationally significant infrastructure. Infrastructure Australia will continue to provide a transparent, robust, evidence-based approach to determining the adequacy, capacity and capability of nationally significant infrastructure, identifying, evaluating, and informing policy to assist governments in making decisions about investment.

Infrastructure Australia will do this by conducting audits, developing lists, evaluating infrastructure proposals, developing plans, identifying impediments to investment, promoting investment, and reviewing, researching and providing advice.

The Government expects the Infrastructure Australia Board to:

- Ensure that Infrastructure Australia acts in accordance with the *Infrastructure Australia Act 2008*, the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (and associated regulations), as well as other relevant legislation and legal instruments.
- Operate in accordance with Government's intended direction, which will be set by the responsible and relevant Minister.
- Consult with government, commercial, industrial, consumer, academic, professional and other relevant bodies and organisations; investors in infrastructure and owners of infrastructure.
- Provide advice to government on nationally significant infrastructure, and other infrastructure determined by the Minister.
- Ensure that work delivered by Infrastructure Australia directly and specifically relates to transport, energy, communications and water infrastructure, as defined under the *Infrastructure Australia Act 2008*.
- Work cooperatively with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (the Department), and other relevant Departments to facilitate the sharing of information, where appropriate, on infrastructure priorities so that the relevant Department can provide timely advice to Government.

The Government expects Infrastructure Australia to consult with the responsible Minister to consider the approach and priorities of the Government, to deliver the following products:

- Infrastructure policy reports as requested by the responsible and relevant Ministers.
- Individual project assessments and reviews across the project lifecycle, including project investigations on costs, delivery, benefits and post completion.
- Audits to determine the adequacy, capacity and condition of nationally significant infrastructure taking into account forecast growth and economic, social and environmental sustainability.
- The Infrastructure Priority List, to be refreshed regularly and, at a minimum, updated annually, to prioritise Australia's infrastructure needs. The Government expects that the Infrastructure Priority List will continue to not include projects where a Government commitment has been made, as already decided by Infrastructure Australia.
- The evaluation in a timely manner of infrastructure proposals that are nationally significant or where Commonwealth funding of \$250 million or more is sought. Infrastructure Australia should prioritise assessments where failure to do so would result in delays in project delivery.
- The development of infrastructure plans to specify priorities for nationally significant infrastructure. Recommendations of plans must directly and specifically relate to nationally significant infrastructure, defined to specifically include transport, energy, communications and water.
- Reviews of pre-construction costs and benefits including but not limited to: business cases; planning and approvals; contracts and procurement; and design and engineering.

## **RESPOND TO GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY PRIORITIES**

### *ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR OUR REGIONS*

Infrastructure Australia will have an increased focus on regional, rural and remote areas, giving specific consideration and make recommendations for improved productivity, connectivity and economic prosperity for regional and remote areas, taking into account economic and social benefits.

### *ASSISTING THE COORDINATION OF KEY INFRASTRUCTURE*

Infrastructure Australia has an important role to play in assisting government to deliver its ten year \$110 billion investment in land and transport infrastructure, and to ensure future investment is optimised, and infrastructure markets operate efficiently.

This includes the continuation of work to expedite major infrastructure projects through approval processes, along with the Department, state, and territory governments, to undertake a range of reforms and processes to facilitate more efficient major infrastructure development and economic growth.

## **TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

Infrastructure Australia is accountable to the Parliament and the public through the responsible Minister, Parliamentary Committee processes and the tabling of its annual report. Infrastructure Australia must comply with all relevant legislation and administrative policies.

Infrastructure Australia is required to prepare a corporate plan on an annual basis with regard to the requirements specified under Section 39B of the *Infrastructure Australia Act 2008* and Section 35 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

Wherever possible, Infrastructure Australia should publish its findings and the underlying data or other evidence for those findings. Where Infrastructure Australia cannot publish material for commercial or other reasons, it should document and make available those reasons.