

Statement of Intent

September 2022

Infrastructure Australia is an independent advisor to government, industry and the community on nationally significant infrastructure investment and reforms that will materially improve the lives of all Australians.

Infrastructure Australia will continue to provide a transparent, robust, evidence-based approach to determining the adequacy, capacity and capability of nationally significant infrastructure focused on transport, energy, communications and water infrastructure. .

Under the *Infrastructure Australia Act*, we do this by:

- Conducting audits and preparing the **Australian Infrastructure Audit**
- Maintaining the **Infrastructure Priority List** to promote Australia's infrastructure needs
- Evaluating **Business Cases** for project proposals that are nationally significant or where Commonwealth funding of \$250 million or more is sought
- Developing the **Australian Infrastructure Plan** to specify priorities for nationally significant infrastructure

As requested by First Ministers from the former Council of Australian Governments in March 2020, we will continue to report on our annual assessment of infrastructure **market conditions and capacity**, identifying impediments to investment, promoting investment, and reviewing, researching and providing advice, unless directed otherwise.

Collaborate across government, industry and the community

We will collaborate, engage and partner with key stakeholders, including our responsible Minister, all levels of government, investors, infrastructure owners, industry organisations, research bodies and community groups.

We will continue to provide accurate and timely advice on infrastructure investment matters to the responsible Minister, and other relevant Ministers to assist government decision-making processes.

We will maintain our effective working relationship with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (the Department).

Maintain a pipeline of nationally significant infrastructure opportunities

Through the *Infrastructure Priority List*, we will maintain a pipeline of nationally significant investment opportunities in transport, energy, communications and water infrastructure.

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 *Infrastructure Priority List* will be updated regularly as new unfunded proposals are received and assessed by Infrastructure Australia and are determined to be nationally significant or where Commonwealth funding of \$250 million or more is sought. The Infrastructure Australia Assessment Framework provides clear guidance on how we assess proposals for inclusion on the *Infrastructure Priority List*.

Support our stakeholders in demonstrating economic and social benefits

The Infrastructure Australia Assessment Framework also supports the development of business cases for nationally significant infrastructure to capture wider project benefits, including environmental outcomes and the achievement of Australia's net zero targets, resilience and improvements to quality of life.

Our Assessment Framework will evolve to ensure it reflects the Australian Government's policy direction. Our technical guidance will support best practice project evaluation, and support efficient and evidence-based investment decisions.

Evolving an evidence base for productivity-enhancing infrastructure reform

Underpinned by the *Australian Infrastructure Audit*, *Australian Infrastructure Plan* and the *Market Capacity* work program, we will evolve our evidence base to continue to monitor and report on infrastructure market conditions and capacity as requested by the former COAG in March 2020.

We will continue to support good data governance, including a prioritisation of Open Data principles and to work collaboratively with jurisdictions and other stakeholders on data sharing to share project and pipeline data for inclusion in the national infrastructure database and to enhance future phases of the Market Capacity Program.

Strong governance to support how we deliver against our mandate

Infrastructure Australia will continue to operate in accordance with its statutory functions and obligations under the *Infrastructure Australia Act 2008* (Cth), the Public Governance Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (and associated regulations) and other relevant legislation and legal instruments.

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

Infrastructure Australia will continue to fully cooperate with the independent reviewers, and contribute information and views relating to reform opportunities; to meet the expectations and priorities of the Government.