



27 September 2024

MIN-CB-80

Dear Mayor/Chair,

**The Government has tasked the Infrastructure Commission with developing the National Infrastructure Plan (the Plan).** Local government organisations are responsible for providing important infrastructure services across New Zealand, and manage 26% of all infrastructure. We are writing to request your assistance in the Plan's development.<sup>1</sup>

**The Plan will bring together three key parts of New Zealand's capital intentions programme.** It will identify the gap between planned investment (using the National Infrastructure Pipeline) and long-term investment needs, and make recommendations on the actions, projects, and reforms needed to address that gap (see the attached diagram).

**The Plan will help inform infrastructure investment and policy decisions.** This will help provide more confidence to the infrastructure industry to invest in the people, technology, and equipment needed to improve outcomes. The Government expects the Plan to give New Zealanders greater confidence that the nation's infrastructure is safe, reliable, well planned, provides value for money, and meets the needs of today and tomorrow. Outputs of the Plan may also be used to support the development of Regional Deals.

**The Infrastructure Commission is working at pace to finalise the Plan by December 2025.** A draft will be submitted to the Government in June 2025 with public consultation at the same time. The Government will respond to the Plan in early 2026, using the process set out in the Infrastructure Commission's enabling legislation.

More information on the National Infrastructure Plan is available on the Infrastructure Commission's website at: <https://tewaihangā.govt.nz/national-infrastructure-plan>.

**The Government wants to ensure your region's activity and needs are represented in the Plan.** With the recent publication of most long-term plans, we anticipate councils and council-controlled organisations are in a strong position to provide up-to-date information to the Infrastructure Commission. There are two important ways for organisations to contribute:

### 1. ***The National Infrastructure Pipeline (the Pipeline)***<sup>2</sup>

The Pipeline is New Zealand's national dataset of infrastructure project information. It is an important evidence base, informing decision making across Government. Maintaining an up-to-date and complete Pipeline provides significant value beyond the Plan and reduces the need for duplicated information provision.

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<sup>1</sup> Cabinet agreed that local authorities should be requested to assist in the development of the National Infrastructure Plan on 5 August 2024. [CAB-24-MIN-0277.02](#) refers.

<sup>2</sup> The Pipeline is delivered by the Infrastructure Commission under statutory functions required by the [New Zealand Infrastructure Commission/Te Waihangā Act 2019](#).

The Pipeline:

- provides evidence to inform decisions on policy settings and programmes on employment, education, training, and is supporting the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's work on workforce planning in the construction and infrastructure sectors;
- has established processes to collect and present information from across the infrastructure system on anticipated/expected projects and demand – a critical recovery function following events that disrupt services, which supports the National Emergency Management Agency<sup>3</sup> and Government; and
- supports coordination of project and programme planning, informing decisions on funding, prioritisation, and scheduling with an understanding of opportunities and market capacity constraints or delivery challenges (supporting the Department of Internal Affairs<sup>4</sup>, National Emergency management Agency, and wider Government).

Many local government organisations already provide some information to the Pipeline. Further detail is now required to accurately reflect intentions covering a 10-year view of current, planned, or anticipated infrastructure projects and maintenance programmes (irrespective of their funding or delivery certainty). The confidentiality of sensitive information provided to the Infrastructure Commission will be maintained.

More information on the National infrastructure Pipeline is available on the Infrastructure Commission's website at: <https://tewaihangā.govt.nz/the-pipeline>.

## **2. The Infrastructure Priorities Programme (IPP)**

The Infrastructure Commission is now inviting IPP applications from local government organisations. The IPP provides structured independent reviews of nationally significant unfunded infrastructure problems or proposals in various stages of planning – from identifying the strategic case for investment through to funding-ready options, including initiatives that avoid the need for physical infrastructure. The IPP is not an investment decision-making process, but proposals endorsed through the IPP will be published as part of the Plan.

More information on the IPP is available on the Infrastructure Commission's website: <https://tewaihangā.govt.nz/our-work/infrastructure-priorities-programme>.

A series of webinars have also been scheduled to provide an overview of the Plan, Pipeline and the IPP. If your team are interested in attending, more information is available at: <https://tewaihangā.govt.nz/national-infrastructure-plan#webinars>.

**We encourage you to assign a lead contact for the Infrastructure Commission to engage with on the development of Plan.** This will ensure that your organisation's information is accurately presented in the Pipeline. You can confirm this person's contact details to the Infrastructure Commission by emailing [pipeline@tewaihangā.govt.nz](mailto:pipeline@tewaihangā.govt.nz).

Please forward this letter and request for assistance to council-controlled organisations with a role in infrastructure. The Infrastructure Commission has been working with the Ministry of

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<sup>3</sup> NEMA has interests in disaster resilient infrastructure and the development of efficient operational mechanisms to support more effective recovery planning and delivery.

<sup>4</sup> DIA has interests in the deliverability of local government long-term plan infrastructure projects, including water infrastructure. We also note that territorial authorities are now developing Water Services Delivery Plans (WSDP). The Commission and the DIA consider that the information necessary to populate WSDPs will also help with the population of the Pipeline.

Business, Innovation and Employment, the Department of Internal Affairs, and the National Emergency Management Agency to align information requirements and to leverage from existing information, systems, and processes where possible.

We are immensely grateful for your support. Many of New Zealand's most pressing and intractable problems will benefit from a more coordinated approach to how we plan, design, build, and maintain our infrastructure.

If you have any further questions on the Plan or related matters, please do not hesitate to contact the Infrastructure Commission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Bishop".

Hon Chris Bishop

**Minister for Infrastructure**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Simeon Brown".

Hon Simeon Brown

**Minister of Local Government**

# The Key Components of the National Infrastructure Plan

