

# INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA REVIEW

## Guiding questions

### *Infrastructure Australia's (IA) role*

1. IA was established to advise the Australian Government on nationally significant infrastructure matters including transport, energy, communications and water infrastructure.
  - Do you consider IA best placed to provide advice on nationally significant infrastructure and do you use IA's advice when considering infrastructure matters?
  - Do you use advice from other advisory bodies on infrastructure matters? If so, why?
  - How does the quality of IA's advice compare to other infrastructure advice you receive?
  - How can IA best support infrastructure investment into the future?
  - Is there a role for a national investment plan, and if so, what role should IA take in this?
  - Are you aware of any global examples of best practice in infrastructure governance/advisory bodies?

### *Effectiveness*

2. IA publishes a range of products including: the Australian Infrastructure Audit; the Australian Infrastructure Plan; the Infrastructure Priority List; Infrastructure Market Capacity reports; business case evaluation summaries; and other research reports as requested by the Government.
  - Which of IA's products is the most effective for your work or organisation, and why?
  - Which of IA's products is the least effective for your work or organisation, and why?
  - If you could change any of IA's products, which would you change, and why?
  - Has any of IA's reports assisted with targeting specific priority areas?
  - How can IA's products be improved to better meet your needs?
  - Do you think the frequency and volume of IA's products provide the best outcome? Why or why not?
3. IA is required to review infrastructure proposals where more than \$250 million in Australian Government funding has been committed.
  - Do you think this is the right threshold? Why or why not?
  - What other considerations do you think are appropriate for IA to evaluate a business case?
  - If you had the choice of seeking advice from IA on infrastructure proposals where more than \$250 million in Australian Government funding has been committed, would request a review? Why or why not?
  - Where do you find the most value in an IA assessment?
  - How effective has IA been in integrating the planning and investment decisions/approaches governments have taken for transport, energy, communications and utilities. What more needs to be done?

## **Governance**

4. IA was established as an independent body, to ensure the integrity of Commonwealth investment in infrastructure.
  - Is IA fulfilling this role?
  - How could IA's role be strengthened to improve the integrity of infrastructure investment across Australia, and across industries?
  - Is IA's structure fit-for-purpose, or what barriers do you believe prohibit useful work for IA?
5. Part of IA's role is to ensure infrastructure investment is prioritised for nationally significant projects that deliver maximum benefits for Australia.
  - Is IA achieving its objective on providing useful advice on nationally significant projects?
  - What do you think should be removed from IA's role into the future?
  - What do you think should be added to IA's role into the future?
  - How could IA's role be changed or strengthened to ensure the most beneficial or transformative projects are identified and prioritised for investment?
6. Since IA was established in 2008, most jurisdictions have established their own infrastructure body.
  - How has this changed IA's role over time?
  - Is it useful having advice from IA and the infrastructure body?
  - What further changes are needed to ensure IA works efficiently with other infrastructure bodies to minimise duplication and maximise outcomes?
7. How can the IA Board be most valuable, and what experience, skills and expertise is needed?
  - Should the Board be completely independent, or should it have representatives from government and industry?
  - Does the IA Board provide a useful function?
  - Do you think the composition of the Board is right? Why or why not?
  - Is there another, more effective structure for IA's governance?

## **Other functions**

8. As part of the Government's [six-point plan for cities policy](#), the Government has committed to the creation of an Australian Cities and Suburbs Unit (CSU).
  - What role and responsibilities would best place a Cities and Suburbs Unit to support the Australian Government's Vision for Cities?
  - What could be the focus and form of this role in delivering on the Australian Government's Vision for Cities?
  - What and where are the options for the structure and location for the CSU?

- How could the CSU responsibilities relate to other policy and program units within the Australian Public Service, noting their responsibilities, including providing advice to Ministers?
9. IA is currently legislated to focus its work on nationally significant infrastructure, which is defined to include transport, energy, communications and water infrastructure categories.
- What benefits might there be in including social infrastructure as an additional focus area for IA's work, where the Commonwealth is not generally involved in delivering or directly funding social infrastructure?
  - Equally, are there reasons why IA should not examine social infrastructure?
10. Are there other areas of infrastructure that IA should assess, and why?

***The future investment challenge***

11. How effective will the current IA role and responsibilities, and business approach be to handling the national investment challenges Australia faces in the coming decades?
- What role should IA take in integrating the national decarbonisation, energy transition, productivity and sustainable economy policies the Federal, state and local governments are pursuing?
  - Is there a role for a national plan for investment which links and supports the economic re-structure required to transition the economy in the coming decade?
  - If so, how does IA facilitate this with all national and state agencies involved?
  - What is the most effective way in which IA can assist the various investment policies and projects required to achieve Australia's economic transition?