



A Stronger Tomorrow

State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper

June 2020



Join the conversation!

Infrastructure WA (IWA) is seeking feedback on the State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper, which outlines how IWA intends to develop the first state-wide 20-year State Infrastructure Strategy.

The Strategy will inform future priorities and planning undertaken by State Government agencies and Government Trading Enterprises, as well as other functions undertaken by IWA.

Preparation of a State Infrastructure Strategy is a key function of IWA under the *Infrastructure Western Australia Act 2019*.

What is the State Infrastructure Strategy?

- The Strategy will identify the State's infrastructure needs and priorities, and is the foundation for IWA's advice to the State Government
- It will address a timeframe of 20 years and be refreshed at least every five years
- The Strategy will address a broad range of social, economic and environmental infrastructure – this includes build and non-build solutions
- Publication of a state-wide infrastructure strategy has not been completed before in WA

Strategy objectives

The Discussion Paper sets out ten draft objectives. These are the areas that IWA proposes to focus on when developing the Strategy. These objectives reflect areas that will be of critical importance and influence to Western Australia's society, economy and environment over the next 20 years. Further detail on each of the draft objectives is outlined in the Discussion Paper.



Support a strong, resilient and diversified economy



Support access to social services and improve Aboriginal wellbeing



Maximise liveability and cultural strategic opportunities for our community



Maximise regional strengths to unlock strategic opportunities for Western Australia



Enhance cross-government coordination and planning



Embrace technology, data and digital connectivity



Address climate change and increase resilience



Enhance infrastructure delivery and develop skills for the future



Support population growth and change



Get the most from our infrastructure and improve maintenance

Scope

Infrastructure underpins the wellbeing of our society, the prosperity of our economy, and the health of our environment. The Strategy will address a broad range of infrastructure sectors (and cross-sectoral issues), with a primary focus on infrastructure that is fully or partly funded by the State Government. The Strategy will also consider types of infrastructure that provide an important service to the community, whether they are owned by another level of government or the private sector (for example gas pipelines, airports and telecommunications).

The Strategy will focus on both infrastructure projects and programs as well as non-build solutions such as policy, regulatory, pricing, technology, procurement, skills and governance reforms. However, our consideration of projects and programs in the SIS will generally be focussed on the medium to long-term (5 to 20 year) period, rather than the short term.

IWA is primarily focussed on proposals and issues of a strategic or significant nature and larger-scale projects and programs. A minimum dollar threshold for projects and programs to be included in the Strategy has not been set.

The Discussion Paper proposes sectoral groupings as follows: transport; energy; water; waste; education and training; health; digital connectivity and telecommunications; social and affordable housing; justice and public safety; and arts, culture, sport and recreation.

Methodology

IWA proposes to apply a hybrid approach in developing the Strategy, comprising a focus on predominantly bottom-up assessment over the next ten years, and a largely strategic top-down assessment over the period 11 to 20 years.

The Strategy will be informed by a baseline assessment of existing and planned infrastructure, as well as information provided by government, industry and the community as part of our engagement program (including submissions received on the Discussion Paper).

As the long term future is hard to accurately predict, a range of plausible scenarios will be applied in developing the Strategy. These will be designed to assess how alternative future changes could impact on infrastructure outcomes in the long-term. Prioritisation criteria will be developed and applied to identify priority projects, programs and other responses.

Our guiding principles

The following draft principles will shape how we operate when preparing the Strategy:

- Open, consultative and engaging
- Objective and rigorous
- Improvement over time
- Affordable and deliverable
- Forward-looking and open to change

Engagement and timeframes

IWA is proposing a program of broad and targeted engagement that informs, consults and involves different stakeholder groups at appropriate times over the next 18 months, as the Strategy is developed.

IWA anticipates that it will release a draft Strategy for public consultation by around mid-2021, and submit a final Strategy to the Premier by around the end of 2021.



Your invitation

We welcome your feedback on the Discussion Paper and encourage you to submit your comments through www.infrastructure.wa.gov.au/discussionpaper

The Discussion Paper includes a series of targeted consultation questions. IWA is particularly interested in receiving feedback on the following key elements outlined in the Discussion Paper:

- guiding principles and objectives that will help define the Strategy parameters
- methodology and governance for developing the Strategy
- priority opportunities and challenges the Strategy should address, particularly over the medium to long-term.

Submissions close at **5pm on Friday 21 August 2020**. For further information contact iwaconsultation@infrastructure.wa.gov.au or 6552 5229.