

## Infrastructure WA Frequently Asked Questions

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### Acknowledgement of Country

Infrastructure WA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of Aboriginal communities and their cultures, and to Elders both past and present.

### Alternative formats

This document can be made available in alternative formats and languages on request. Please email [enquiries@infrastructure.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@infrastructure.wa.gov.au)

## Role and responsibilities

### Who is Infrastructure WA?

Infrastructure WA (IWA) is a statutory body, established under law. Operating under the [Infrastructure Western Australia Act 2019](#) (IWA Act), IWA provides expert advice and assistance to the Premier and WA Government on a range of infrastructure matters, particularly regarding the State's infrastructure needs and priorities. It assists in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of infrastructure planning and coordination, promotes the adoption and use of policies, practices, information and analysis to support sound decision-making in relation to infrastructure.

To achieve this, IWA is responsible for:

- delivering a State Infrastructure Strategy (Strategy) that addresses Western Australia's infrastructure needs and priorities over a 20-year horizon
- reporting annually on the implementation of supported State Infrastructure Strategy recommendations
- assessing major infrastructure proposals
- providing advice to state government agencies and government trading enterprises (GTE) on the preparation of infrastructure proposals and business cases
- providing advice and assistance to state government agencies and GTEs in preparing infrastructure strategies, plans and policies
- reviewing proposals and reporting to the Premier prior to their submission to Infrastructure Australia
- coordinating the provision of information and submissions to Infrastructure Australia
- providing advice to the Premier on infrastructure priorities, and the funding and financing of infrastructure
- reviewing and reporting to the Premier on completed infrastructure projects
- promoting public awareness of matters relating to infrastructure
- any other infrastructure related functions requested by the Premier.

### What is Infrastructure WA's purpose?

IWA's helps shape a sustainable future for WA through better long term infrastructure planning. We do this by providing objective, transparent and informed advice and leadership.

This is supported by five strategic objectives:

- Improve strategic infrastructure planning and coordination
- Inform and influence longer-term infrastructure needs and priorities
- Provide informed advice to support robust infrastructure proposals
- Build stakeholder confidence through mutual awareness and understanding
- Foster a safe and healthy organisation.

For further information visit the [About Us](#) page on our website.

### Infrastructure WA's governance structure?

IWA's Board is responsible for its strategic direction and operations. The Chief Executive Officer oversees IWA's day-to-day operations, supported by a small multidisciplinary team.

The IWA Board comprises up to ten members. This includes both government and non-government representatives, as well as three ex-officio members:

- Nicole Lockwood (Chairperson)
- Terry Agnew (Deputy Chairperson)
- Kerryl Bradshaw
- Rebecca Tomkinson
- Peter Woronzow
- Hon Jay Weatherill AO
- Dr Richard Walley OAM
- Director General, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (Anthony Kannis) - *Ex-officio member*
- Director General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Emily Roper) - *Ex-officio member*
- Under Treasurer, Department of Treasury (Michael Barnes) - *Ex-officio member*.

At least half of the Board members must be non-government representatives. The IWA Act requires that appointed Board members have appropriate expertise in the areas of infrastructure policy, planning, strategy, funding, financing or delivery. The Board collectively, must also have expertise across a broad range of infrastructure sectors.

### **Who does Infrastructure WA report to?**

IWA reports to the Premier of Western Australia. However, it operates at 'arms-length' from government in undertaking most of its functions to support a level of independence and objectivity.

As outlined in the IWA Act, the Premier cannot give a direction to IWA about the particular performance of a function or the content of any strategy, advice, report, guideline or other document prepared by IWA. However, the Premier may provide directions on the performance of IWA's functions relating to other matters. Such directions must be tabled in Parliament within 14 days of the direction being given.

### **How does Infrastructure WA work with state government agencies and government trading enterprises?**

The IWA Act applies to all state government agencies, (including statutory authorities) and GTEs.

IWA works collaboratively and in consultation with state government agencies and GTEs as well as other stakeholders outside of government.

In line with the IWA Act, IWA provides advice to state government agencies and GTEs on the preparation of infrastructure proposals, and may provide advice and assistance to these entities in the preparation of infrastructure strategies, plans and policies.

# Functions and activities

## State Infrastructure Strategy

### What is the State Infrastructure Strategy?

The State Infrastructure [Strategy](#) (Strategy) provides a statewide perspective of WA's infrastructure needs and priorities over 20 years.

Under the IWA Act, IWA is responsible for preparing a Strategy at least every 5 years. The Strategy is the foundation for IWA's advice to the WA Government on infrastructure matters. The Strategy considers economic, social and environmental objectives to make recommendations relating to infrastructure planning, delivery and operation. The Strategy's recommendations include a focus on both new projects and programs as well as non-build solutions (e.g. planning, policy, regulation, pricing, technology, procurement, skills and governance reforms).

### What is the current status of the 2022 Strategy?

The WA Government's [Response](#) to the Strategy was published on 3 February 2023 following the Strategy's tabling in Parliament on 3 August 2022. The response outlines the extent to which each recommendation is supported (for example, in full, in part or not supported), and reasons why any recommendation is not fully supported.

### **What happens now the WA Government has responded to the Strategy?**

State government agencies and GTEs are required to align their strategies, plans and policies with, and implement, the Strategy's recommendations to the extent that they are supported in the WA Government's response to the Strategy.

For further information on the WA Government Response [click here](#).

### **What is IWA's role now the WA Government has responded?**

In line with requirements of the IWA Act, IWA is required to monitor and report annually on implementation progress, which will foster an accountable and transparent approach to achieving the outcomes of the Strategy.

The first annual and monitoring report was released in December 2023 and can be found [here](#).

### **When is the next Strategy due for release?**

It is a legislative requirement that a Strategy which covers a 20-year period is provided to the State Government at least every 5 years. IWA has commenced the development process in early 2024, with the next comprehensive Strategy due for release in mid-2027.

For more detailed information on the Strategy, please [click here](#) for its dedicated frequently asked questions.

## **Major Infrastructure Proposal Assessment (MIPA)**

### **What is the Major infrastructure proposal assessment function?**

Under the IWA Act, IWA is responsible for assessing major state government infrastructure proposals.

IWA's assessment role focuses on major infrastructure proposals (i.e. a single project or program of multiple projects) that has an estimated capital cost of \$100 million or more, and any other specific proposals referred to IWA for assessment by the Premier.

IWA has developed processes and Guidelines which outline how it will assess major infrastructure proposals and programs. For further information including the Guidelines visit the [Major Infrastructure Proposal Assessment](#) page on our website.

### **Does Infrastructure WA make budgetary or approval decisions for infrastructure investment?**

No. IWA does not have decision-making authority on infrastructure investments. The WA Government is, and will continue to be, responsible for making investment decisions for public infrastructure. IWA provides advice prior to the WA Government making investment decisions on major infrastructure proposals.

### **Does Infrastructure WA have a role in delivering infrastructure projects?**

Existing state government agencies and GTEs are already established to deliver infrastructure projects in WA so it is reasonable to expect that IWA will rarely, if at all, perform a project delivery function. However, the IWA Act provides an intentionally broad power to account for instances where the Premier may task IWA with performing additional functions.

For more detailed information on MIPA, please [click here](#) for its dedicated frequently asked questions.

## **Coordination of information and submissions to Infrastructure Australia**

### **How does Infrastructure WA's role relate to Infrastructure Australia?**

One of IWA's objectives is to improve the consistency and quality of business cases submitted to Infrastructure [Australia](#) to assist in strengthening the state's position in seeking funding from the Australian Government. To support this, a function of IWA is to review and report to the Premier on proposals prior to their submission to Infrastructure Australia.

IWA also coordinates the WA Government's input to Infrastructure Australia on various matters, under the direction of the Premier, while working in close collaboration with the departments of the Premier and Cabinet and Treasury and other relevant state government agencies and GTEs throughout the process.

## State Infrastructure Program

### What is the State Infrastructure Program and what is its relationship with the State Infrastructure Strategy?

The IWA Act requires the WA Government to prepare a 10-year State Infrastructure Program (SIP) on an annual basis, which is required to be made publicly available by the Premier within 3 months of the State Budget being handed down.

The SIP provides an overview of the WA Government's infrastructure investment consistent with the State Budget and forward estimates (0 to 4 years). It also looks beyond the forward estimates (5 to 10 years) and identifies significant infrastructure needs and challenges over this period.

The SIP is required to take into account the recommendations in the Strategy, to the extent that they are supported by the WA Government. The preparation of the SIP is a requirement of the WA Premier in consultation with the Treasurer, and in line with the IWA Act, the Premier must also seek IWA's advice in preparing the SIP. IWA will work with relevant state government agencies and GTEs to assist the WA Government in developing the SIP each year.

### What is the current status of the State Infrastructure Program and when will it be released?

The first [SIP](#) was made publicly available by the Premier on the 11 August 2023. Each subsequent SIP is required to be released within 3 months of the relevant annual Budget being handed down, which is generally released around mid-May each year.

In collaboration with the WA Government, IWA provided its advice to WA Government on the inaugural SIP in June 2023, and is now working on its advice for the 2024 SIP.

## Further information

### Does Infrastructure WA publish its advice and reports?

IWA is required to make the following documents publicly available:

- State Infrastructure Strategy (this includes drafts and any amendments to the Strategy)
- Guidelines for assessment of major infrastructure proposals
- Annual reports on the WA Government's progress in implementing the supported Strategy recommendations
- Summary of assessment of a major infrastructure proposal (if not published by the Premier)
- Annual Work Program, outlining its work program for the next 12 months.

The WA Government, more broadly, is required to make the following documents publicly available:

- State infrastructure strategy (e.g. tabling in the Parliament)
- WA Government's response to the Strategy (and any amended response to the Strategy)
- Annual 10-year state infrastructure program
- Any direction from the Premier to IWA
- Statement of grounds for suspending or removing a Board member or the CEO from office.

IWA, with the approval of the Premier, also has the ability to provide other advice that it has prepared through the performance of its functions publicly available.

Any information or advice made publicly available must be in accord with the restrictions on the disclosure of information, including sensitive information, as outlined in the IWA Act.

### **How can I keep informed of Infrastructure WA's activities?**

For the latest news on IWA and to subscribe for updates, please visit [www.infrastructure.wa.gov.au](http://www.infrastructure.wa.gov.au). You can also follow us on [LinkedIn](#).