

15 August 2022

Director - Engagement, Advisory and Projects Section
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and
the Arts
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Mrdak & Ms Lockwood

Independent review of Infrastructure Australia

I am pleased to provide some comments to the review of Infrastructure Australia on behalf of the National Transport Commission (NTC).

The NTC is a statutory body that leads strategic national land transport reform to improve safety, productivity and environmental outcomes. It is accountable to Australian Transport Ministers through the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting (ITMM) – the only national transport body to have this function.

The NTC and Infrastructure Australia have a proud history of effective collaboration to advance strategic reforms at the national level. In particular, the NTC has assisted Infrastructure Australia as it undertakes the following functions:

- *Leads and informs the debate on infrastructure policy and reform* – by supporting jurisdictions with seamless implementation and developing harmonised policy and regulatory frameworks. The NTC can provide the transport policy context for the consideration of infrastructure policy and to assist governments align these reforms.
- *Monitors the market's capacity to effectively deliver infrastructure projects* – by progressing the skills harmonisation and transferability in the rail sector as part of the National Rail Action Plan and establishment of the Women in Transport Initiative which aims to increase the participation of women in the transport industry.

In fact, Infrastructure Australia's 2021 Australian Infrastructure Priority Plan identifies several focus areas for the NTC to progress.

In addition, during Covid the NTC and Infrastructure Australia agreed to co-locate staff from each organisation in each other's respective offices in Sydney and Melbourne. This cooperation also enhanced coordination and collaborative national policy and reform development.

National Transport Commission

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I note that one of the most significant future challenges facing both industry and governments is the transition to a carbon neutral transport sector. Achieving this sustainability will require integration across transport and energy sectors and across the whole economy. This required national response can only truly be coordinated and advocated for by agencies with a national remit such as Infrastructure Australia and the NTC.

I believe that the NTC and a more focused Infrastructure Australia on infrastructure policy and assessment can continue to partner - in appropriate circumstances - to provide forward-thinking, practical and evidence-based advice to government and industry. This partnership will continue to be of benefit as many of the challenges and opportunities of the future are multi-faceted and require innovative solutions and a move away from siloed thinking. NTC and Infrastructure Australia can be leaders in this regard.

If you would like to discuss any of these points further, then please contact Ms Dimi Rigas, Executive Leader, Strategy and Government Relations [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Dr Gillian Miles
Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner