



# State Infrastructure Strategy

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### What is the State Infrastructure Strategy?

The State Infrastructure Strategy (the Strategy) will identify the State's infrastructure needs and priorities, and is the foundation for Infrastructure WA's (IWA) advice to the State Government. It will address a 20 year timeframe and be refreshed at least every five years.

Publication of a state-wide infrastructure strategy has not been completed before in WA. The Strategy will address a broad range of social, economic and environmental objectives to make recommendations relating to infrastructure planning, prioritisation and decision-making.

The Strategy's recommendations will focus on new infrastructure projects, programs and non-build solutions (for example, strategic planning, policy, regulatory, pricing, technology, procurement, skills and governance reforms). Where appropriate, the Strategy will also include recommendations relating to funding and financing infrastructure.

### What is the State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper?

*A Stronger Tomorrow, State Infrastructure Strategy Discussion Paper* (Discussion Paper) was released in June 2020 and provides a foundation for the development of the Strategy. Strategic focus areas of the Discussion Paper include:

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

The Paper identifies key issues and needs relevant to the planning and provision of infrastructure across a range of sectors and regions.

### Why is the Discussion Paper important?

IWA recognises the value of stakeholder expertise and is committed to open engagement across all levels of government, industry and the community. The Discussion Paper is a key element of our engagement process, seeking valuable feedback to help shape the Strategy.

### Why is the State Infrastructure Strategy necessary?

Infrastructure is planned, delivered and managed by all levels of government, private industry and the community. With so many stakeholders involved, infrastructure decision-making can be disjointed and lack coordinated opportunities such as colocation and shared use. A well-developed Strategy, based on sound evidence, will highlight the needs and priorities of where funding is best spent to maximise value for Western Australians. Having an infrastructure strategy is also expected to help attract more Federal funding.

### What does the COVID-19 pandemic mean for development of the Strategy?

The Strategy will not focus on COVID-19 short-term stimulus recovery projects which are currently being addressed through other governance structures.

As part of developing the Strategy, IWA will need to consider the potential medium and long-term impacts of the pandemic and how it may change the way we plan, prioritise and deliver our infrastructure into the future. Short-term impacts will also need to be considered in terms of the development pathways that may result for the State as a result of the pandemic and stimulus measures that are implemented.

## **What is Infrastructure WA's role in short term COVID-19 recovery related infrastructure?**

IWA's focus on projects/programs in the Strategy will be on the medium to long-term (5 to 20 years) future, however we recognise the measures the State Government is taking to invest in short-term infrastructure as part of the COVID-19 economic recovery.

## **What is the scope of the State Infrastructure Strategy?**

The Strategy will focus on infrastructure sectors with assets planned and owned by State Government agencies. It will also look at other significant infrastructure types that provide an important service to the Western Australian community, particularly those that have financial or policy implications for the State Government.

It is intended that the Strategy will focus on the needs of infrastructure sectors including: transport; energy; water; waste; digital connectivity and telecommunications; education and training; social and affordable housing; health; justice and public safety; and arts, culture, sport and recreation.

IWA has not set a minimum dollar threshold for projects and programs to be included in the Strategy. It will primarily focus on strategic or state-significant proposals and issues.

Recognising the critical role the regions play in the State's economy, the Strategy will focus on regional challenges and opportunities and how the regions interact. It will consider the infrastructure needed to leverage regional strengths and to maximise opportunities for the entire State.

## **Who will provide input into the Strategy?**

Ongoing and meaningful engagement with stakeholders is vital in developing an effective and relevant Strategy. To understand infrastructure needs and existing priorities, IWA will engage with Federal, State and local governments, private industry, peak bodies, regional stakeholders (including the Regional Development Commissions) and the community.

IWA will use a range of engagement methods including working groups, workshops and forums, expert panels, face-to-face and online meetings. The Discussion Paper will also provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to submit their ideas and responses.

The IWA Board, which comprises State Government and private sector representatives, will provide oversight and input to the Strategy.

## **What time periods will the State Infrastructure Strategy cover, and how will these be used?**

The Strategy will cover a 20-year horizon, divided into the short (zero to four year), medium (five to ten year) and long-term (11 to 20 year) outlooks. During the short-term outlook, IWA may make some recommendations on non-build options including recommendations on strategic planning, policy and other reforms. However, IWA will not focus on infrastructure projects or programs in the short-term as these are covered by the State Budget forward estimate process.

Over the medium-term outlook, IWA will consider the current state of infrastructure and the quality of planning to identify any gaps or system deficiencies. Being more uncertain, the long-term outlook will consider future scenarios and long-term strategies to develop recommendations.

## **How will the State Infrastructure Strategy be developed?**

IWA will identify key issues and needs relevant to the planning and provision of infrastructure. A key input will involve analysing the responses to the Discussion Paper. IWA will also review the current state of infrastructure and the quality of planning undertaken by State Government agencies, to identify any trends, gaps or system deficiencies.

IWA will identify potential responses to key challenges and opportunities, considering regional and metropolitan requirements and the State Government's funding capacity. Priority projects, programs and non-build initiatives and reforms will be considered.

Using an objective and rigorous evaluation process, these potential responses will be prioritised to formulate recommendations covering a short, medium and long-term outlook. This evaluation methodology will consider economic, social and environmental outcomes, along with affordability and deliverability.

## **When will the State Infrastructure Strategy be released for comment and finalised?**

The target date to release the draft Strategy for public comment is mid-2021. Following public consultation, the final Strategy will be refined and submitted to the Premier by the end of 2021.

## **Will government be required to follow the advice of the State Infrastructure Strategy?**

IWA's advice is not binding on government. IWA will provide the Strategy to the Premier, who must table the report in Parliament. Within six months of being tabled, the State Government must respond in Parliament to the Strategy's recommendations including the extent to which each recommendation is supported in full, in part or not supported.

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

## **What is the purpose of the annual report on implementation?**

IWA is required to report annually on government's implementation of the Strategy's recommendations. The report is intended to provide an update of the State Government's progress in implementing the Strategy and improve accountability.

## **How often will the State Infrastructure Strategy be reviewed and updated?**

Under the IWA Act, a new Strategy must be developed at least every five years, or earlier if directed by the Premier. IWA may amend the Strategy at any time, however, amendments are to be treated in the same way as preparation or review of a Strategy in full (for example, the process for acceptance, tabling and responding to the Strategy).

## **How can I keep informed?**

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