

What is *Infrastructure Australia*?

Infrastructure Australia will be charged with responsibility for developing a strategic blueprint for our nation's infrastructure needs over coming years and facilitating its implementation, in partnership with the States, Territories, local government and the private sector.

Infrastructure Australia will be an Independent Statutory Authority that will report to the Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure.

Why is *Infrastructure Australia* needed?

To thrive in a modern, global economy, Australia must be internationally competitive.

A coordinated and cooperative long-term strategy between the three tiers of government and the private sector is required to identify, prioritise and redress:

- Inadequacies in Australia's nationally significant infrastructure
- Regulatory, planning, tax and financial obstacles.

Labor recognises the need to put in place the right national institutional arrangements to assess, coordinate and implement our nationally significant infrastructure requirements.

How will *Infrastructure Australia* operate?

Infrastructure Australia will present regular reports to COAG as part of Labor's plan to make infrastructure a standing item on the COAG agenda.

Infrastructure Australia will receive input from the three tiers of government, the private sector, and the general public to identify infrastructure projects of national importance.

Infrastructure Australia will establish policy guidelines and standardised formats to facilitate consideration of infrastructure proposals and to expedite decision-making.

How will *Infrastructure Australia* be structured and managed?

The Commonwealth Government will appoint to *Infrastructure Australia* a Board of Directors comprising experts from the private and public sector – including the three tiers of Government – as well as the relevant professions.

Day to day management will be through a Chief Executive Officer, reporting to the Board of Directors, who in turn will report to the Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure.

Attachment 1 sets out a proposed structure and outputs of *Infrastructure Australia*.

How will Infrastructure Australia be funded?

A future Labor Government will provide \$32 million over four years to establish staff and operate *Infrastructure Australia*.

Infrastructure Australia will be comparable to the *Australian Office of Financial Management* in terms of its staffing and remuneration.

Labor reserves the right to apply part or all of its *Building Australia Fund* income stream to *Infrastructure Australia*.

Infrastructure Australia will develop an annual corporate plan setting out its strategy for priority infrastructure projects for approval by the Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure.

Infrastructure Australia will develop project and financing options for priority projects for submission to and approval by Federal Cabinet and report to COAG.