

Infrastructure WA

Frequently Asked Questions

Click here for FAQs on the State Infrastructure Strategy

<p>Role and responsibilities</p>	<p><u>What is Infrastructure WA?</u> <u>What is Infrastructure WA's vision?</u> <u>How is Infrastructure WA managed?</u> <u>Who does Infrastructure WA report to?</u> <u>How does Infrastructure WA work with State Government agencies and Government Trading Enterprises?</u></p>
<p>Functions and activities</p>	<p><u>State Infrastructure Strategy</u> <u>What is the State Infrastructure Strategy?</u> <u>Major infrastructure proposal assessment</u> <u>Which infrastructure proposals does Infrastructure WA assess?</u> <u>Does the \$100 million threshold apply to Infrastructure WA's broader functions?</u> <u>How will Infrastructure WA assess major infrastructure proposals?</u> <u>Does Infrastructure WA make budgetary or approval decisions for infrastructure investment?</u> <u>Does Infrastructure WA have a role in delivering infrastructure projects?</u> <u>Coordination of information and submissions to Infrastructure Australia</u> <u>How does Infrastructure WA's role relate to Infrastructure Australia?</u> <u>State Infrastructure Program</u> <u>What is the State Infrastructure Program and what is its relationship to the State Infrastructure Strategy?</u> <u>Does Infrastructure WA publish its advice and reports?</u> <u>Why have certain functions not commenced?</u> <u>How can I keep informed of Infrastructure WA's activities?</u></p>

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 the 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 call Infrastructure WA on 08 6552 5229 or email enquiries@infrastructure.wa.gov.au.

Role and responsibilities

What is Infrastructure WA?

Infrastructure WA (IWA) is a statutory body, which means it is established under law – the *Infrastructure Western Australia Act 2019* (IWA Act) – to provide expert advice and assistance to the State Government on matters relating to infrastructure.

IWA's work supports the State Government in its infrastructure decision making to grow the economy and create jobs by building the right projects, in the right place, at the right time.

To achieve this, IWA is responsible for:

- delivering a State Infrastructure Strategy (Strategy) addressing Western Australia's infrastructure needs and priorities over a 20-year horizon;
- assessing major infrastructure proposals;
- providing advice to State agencies and Government Trading Enterprises (GTEs) on the preparation of infrastructure proposals and business cases;
- providing advice and assistance to State 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; and
- any other infrastructure related functions requested by the Premier.

What is Infrastructure WA's vision?

One of IWA's primary objectives is to improve infrastructure planning and decision-making to maximise the value of every State Government dollar spent on infrastructure on behalf of Western Australians.

IWA's vision is for Western Australia's infrastructure to lead in generating a prosperous, liveable and resilient community.

The vision is supported by three pillars:

1. Improve long-term public sector infrastructure planning to support the economy and grow jobs.
2. Be proactive and foster innovation to achieve better economic, social and environmental outcomes.
3. Provide evidence-based, expert advice to government to inform infrastructure decisions.

Read IWA's values and strategic objectives on its [website](#).

How is Infrastructure WA managed?

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, including both government and non-government representatives, as follows:

- Nicole Lockwood (Chairperson)
- Terry Agnew (Deputy Chairperson)
- Wayne Zekulich
- Andrea Sutton
- Kerryl Bradshaw
- Peter Woronzow
- Rebecca Tomkinson

There are also three ex-officio members as follows:

- Director General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Under Treasurer, Department of Treasury
- Director General, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

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, statutory authorities and GTEs (collectively referred to as State agencies and GTEs in this FAQ).

IWA works collaboratively and in consultation with State agencies and GTEs as well as other stakeholders outside of government to deliver the best infrastructure outcomes for the people of Western Australia.

In line with the IWA Act, IWA provides advice to State agencies and GTEs on the preparation of infrastructure proposals, and may provide advice and assistance to State agencies 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 provides a state-wide perspective of Western Australia's infrastructure needs and priorities over the next 20 years.

Under the IWA Act, IWA is tasked with preparing the Strategy and updating it at least every five years. The Strategy is the foundation for IWA's advice to the State Government.

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).

For more detailed information on the Strategy, please click here for the dedicated Frequently Asked Questions.

Major infrastructure proposal assessment

Which infrastructure proposals does Infrastructure WA assess?

Under the IWA Act, IWA is tasked with assessing major State Government infrastructure proposals. This role will commence on 1 January 2022.

IWA's assessment role will focus 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 the discretion to exempt infrastructure proposals from the assessment process.

Does the \$100 million threshold apply to Infrastructure WA's broader functions?

No. The \$100 million capital cost threshold only applies to IWA's function to assess major infrastructure proposals. A monetary threshold does not apply to IWA's other functions. For example, the State Infrastructure Strategy deals with infrastructure priorities of strategic importance to the State or region/s, regardless of the capital cost.

How will Infrastructure WA assess major infrastructure proposals?

IWA will develop processes and guidelines outlining how it will assess major infrastructure proposals, which will be made publicly available when its assessment role commences.

This process will align with the Department of Treasury's Strategic Asset Management Framework and Infrastructure Australia's Assessment Framework, where possible.

To support the assessment process, IWA will seek to work closely with State agencies and GTEs from the earliest stages of concept and business case development, so that its formal assessment and reporting processes are as streamlined as possible.

Under the IWA Act, IWA will be required to submit its assessment of each proposal to the Premier, before an investment decision is made by Government. A summary of this advice must be made public within six months of the assessment being submitted. The purpose of IWA's assessment is to ensure that Government's investment decisions are informed by IWA's expert advice, and to improve the quality of proposals over time.

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

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

Does Infrastructure WA have a role in delivering infrastructure projects?

Existing State Government agencies are already established to deliver infrastructure projects in Western Australia 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.

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 Federal Government funding. 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 State 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 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 State Government to prepare a 10-year rolling State Infrastructure Program on an annual basis, which is to be made publicly available within three months of the State Budget being handed down. The first State Infrastructure Program is expected within three months of the release of the State Budget for the 2023-24 financial year.

The State Infrastructure Program will provide an overview of the State Government's infrastructure investment consistent with the State Budget and forward estimates (0-4 years). It will also look beyond the forward estimates (5-10 years) and identify significant infrastructure needs and challenges over this period, and associated potential infrastructure responses to create confidence, awareness and preparedness of the State's infrastructure pipeline.

The State Infrastructure Program is required to take into account the recommendations in the State Infrastructure Strategy, to the extent that they are supported by the current Government, and IWA's advice is required to be sought through the development process. IWA will work with relevant State agencies and GTEs to assist Government in developing the Program each year.

Does Infrastructure WA publish its advice and reports?

IWA is required to make the following documents publicly available:

- draft State Infrastructure Strategy (and any amendments to the Strategy);
- guidelines for assessment of major infrastructure proposals;
- annual reports on the State Government's progress in implementing the accepted Strategy recommendations; summary of assessment of a major infrastructure proposal (if not published by the Premier); and
- Annual Work Program, outlining its work program for the next 12 months.

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

- final State Infrastructure Strategy;
- State 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; and
- 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 make 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.

Why have certain functions not commenced?

At IWA's establishment in July 2019, section 8(1)(b) and Part 3 Divisions 2 and 3 of the IWA Act did not commence. These sections are referred to as parts of 'Phase 2' which include:

- IWA's assessment of major infrastructure proposals;
- development of the Government's rolling 10-year State Infrastructure Program.

IWA's role to assess major infrastructure proposals will commence on 1 January 2022 and the preparation and release of an annual rolling 10-year State Infrastructure Program, which is dependent on Government's response to the State Infrastructure Strategy, will commence on 1 January 2023.

This staged commencement approach has allowed IWA to focus on preparing the State Infrastructure Strategy as its first priority.

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.