



COUNCIL DIRECTIONS

Infrastructure is the backbone of a competitive, productive and growing economy. Australia's infrastructure and transport systems drive economic growth and increase employment opportunities, enable social connections and enhance quality of life for all Australians.

The Australian infrastructure and transport sectors face a number of significant challenges in the coming decades. Responding to the demands of population growth; securing sustainable funding; and ensuring access to services will require new, innovative responses at all levels of government.

Acknowledging this, the Council of Australian Governments Transport and Infrastructure Council has agreed to a long term vision for infrastructure and transport in Australia. A focus on ***'Infrastructure and transport systems and services that enhance Australia's productivity, competitiveness and liveability'*** will shape the work of the Council, now and in the long term.

Guiding Principles

The Council will continue to take a national view of our infrastructure and transport systems and place a strong focus on those policy issues that would benefit from collaboration across the three levels of government. Looking over the horizon, the Council will also work to ensure that Australia's infrastructure and transport services are adaptable and resilient and able to capitalise on the financial, commercial, technological and environmental developments of the future.

Streams of Work

Policy areas (or themes) that will become increasingly important areas of focus for national cooperation and reform via the Council's work programme include:

- **Integrating** our national rail, road, aviation, port and maritime supply chains, and improving integration between land use and infrastructure planning.
- Improving system **efficiency** and extracting the greatest use from existing infrastructure, while at the same time meeting community expectations of safety, security, access and reliability.
- Developing sustainable, efficient **funding** and delivery models.
- Improving the **capacity** of infrastructure and transport systems to respond to new and emerging challenges and pressures – and to lessen the need for high cost new infrastructure.
- Improving the **environmental performance** of infrastructure and transport systems – including mitigating adverse environmental effects, such as transport emissions.
- Continuing a focus on **transport safety** while maintaining awareness of technological developments (positive and disruptive) that may impact safety and security.
- Removing barriers to **innovation**, and capitalising on new and emerging technologies.

Work Programme

The Council's work programme will reflect the infrastructure and transport challenges most likely to impact national productivity, competitiveness and liveability over the longer term.

Cooperation through the Council will deliver national reforms to ensure Australia's infrastructure and transport systems can respond to these challenges in the decades ahead.