

# A new independent infrastructure body

In August 2018, Infrastructure Minister Shane Jones announced that the Government is establishing a new independent infrastructure body to ensure better infrastructure planning and delivery.

Go to [www.infrastructure.govt.nz](http://www.infrastructure.govt.nz) to have your say on what the new body should look like. Submissions close on 26 October 2018.

## Why does New Zealand need a new independent infrastructure body?

Infrastructure assets and services are critical to New Zealand's economic and social well-being, but many of our key infrastructure networks need critical investment.

For example, our transport and urban infrastructure is struggling to keep up with population growth and increased demand, and parts of our water network are over 100 years old.

As a result, over the coming years New Zealand will need a level of infrastructure investment that is unprecedented.

Changes are also needed to ensure New Zealand better plans and delivers infrastructure. For these reasons, the Government is establishing a new independent infrastructure body.

## What will the new independent infrastructure body do?

Treasury is proposing the new infrastructure body:

- assess the condition of New Zealand's current infrastructure assets
- develop a shared understanding of New Zealand's long-term infrastructure strategy
- identify New Zealand's priority infrastructure needs
- identify and comment on the barriers to delivering good infrastructure outcomes
- publish long-term capital intentions
- act as a 'shop front' for the market and publish a pipeline of infrastructure projects



- provide best practice guidance on infrastructure procurement and delivery
- provide project procurement and delivery support.

## What will it look like?

Decisions on the body's functions, form, and funding will be made over the coming months. However, the Government has agreed that:

- the infrastructure body will make recommendations to ministers but decision-making rights and direction setting will remain with ministers and departmental chief executives as at present
- the body will provide staff to agencies to support their infrastructure project delivery, while ownership and responsibility will stay with the procuring agency
- the Minister for Infrastructure will have clear accountability mechanisms over it
- it will not have direct funding or project delivery powers
- it will be complementary to, and will not duplicate, other ongoing policy work streams.

## What happens next?

Treasury is leading the development of the body. A panel of private and public sector experts will guide Treasury as it shapes advice on key issues, and support Treasury in the delivery of the project. All the panel members have standing and expertise in the infrastructure sector.

Treasury expects to make key recommendations to Ministers before Christmas, and the new independent infrastructure body will be up and running in mid-late 2019.

In advance of that date, an interim Infrastructure Transactions Unit (ITU) will be established within Treasury from 1 November 2018, to provide support to agencies and councils in planning and delivering major infrastructure projects. The ITU will be absorbed into the new body.

**Submissions on the new independent infrastructure body close on 26 October 2018.**  
**Go to [www.infrastructure.govt.nz](http://www.infrastructure.govt.nz) to find out how to have your say.**