



Making infrastructure stronger

—Release of infrastructure planning and procurement report—

With the population set to grow, reforming the planning, procurement and funding of infrastructure is vital if Australians want to maintain their high standard of living, a new report released today finds.

The House of Representatives Infrastructure Committee report makes ten recommendations. It considers the views of a range of infrastructure stakeholders, including governments and the private sector. The report recommends strengthening Infrastructure Australia's procurement capabilities. The report also recommends that the Australian Government:

- work to facilitate greater coordination between jurisdictions to harmonise planning regulations and processes as well as reducing regulatory duplication
- continue to facilitate the development of a pipeline of infrastructure projects and ensure long-term continuity of infrastructure investment
- pursue the designation of land corridors for significant infrastructure projects
- pursue national registration of infrastructure related professions and encourage skills development
- develop innovative funding and financing models for public infrastructure
- develop innovative procurement practices
- develop a methodology for evaluating the wider economic benefits of infrastructure projects
- develop better risk management strategies

In releasing the report, Committee Chairman Jane Prentice MP said the need for reform in the planning and procurement of public infrastructure had been highlighted in the evidence presented to the Committee. She observed that 'the efficient and cost-effective delivery of infrastructure should be a priority for all levels of government. Better long-term planning, more highly developed procurement skills, and more innovative funding and financing models were the key to the provision of public infrastructure into the future.' "If a clear, robust and streamlined procurement framework existed it would assist governments and the private sector to deliver infrastructure in an efficient and effective manner" she noted.

A copy of the report can be obtained from the Committee's website at http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Infrastructure_and_Communications/Planning_and_Procurement or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 2352.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chairman, (07) 3378 1599 or (02) 6277 4426

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2352, email ic.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Infrastructure_and_Communications/Planning_and_Procurement