



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications

During the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development's (the Department's) appearance before the Committee on 28 May 2014, officials undertook to provide further information on possible initiatives to improve the efficiency of infrastructure project assessment and approval.

Accordingly, the Department provides the following information regarding areas where further assessment could be undertaken:

- Development of options to accelerate infrastructure delivery without impacting on other policy outcomes, such as a reduction in red and green tape to reduce legislative inconsistencies across states and territories, including land use approvals. Such approaches could aim to instil a best practice approach to regulation and reduce costs to investors.
- Better protection of infrastructure corridors and precincts through:
 - implementation of strategic planning frameworks aimed at preventing additional costs associated with land preservation and ensuring the most efficient use of that preserved land until it is required.
- Better use of existing infrastructure, ensuring jurisdictions have appropriate regard for - and investment in – maintenance and upgrades.
- Achieving greater value for money, through
 - promoting greater private sector investment in infrastructure, while recognising any use of alternative funding and financing mechanisms should be undertaken on a case by case basis; and
 - working with governments to identify and develop best practice approaches to managing procurement and unsolicited infrastructure proposals; and
 - working with the states and territories to develop options for better publication of project cost data.
- Enhancing public sector skills and capabilities to manage complex infrastructure projects.