



SESSION 4 — Discussion Paper: Looking forward: Reforms to enhance Australia's productivity, competitiveness and liveability

In November 2015, the Transport and Infrastructure Council (Council) released its long term vision for infrastructure and transport in Australia and agreed to focus on 'infrastructure and transport systems and services that enhance Australia's productivity, competitiveness and liveability'.

This session provides an opportunity for participants to influence the Council's strategic work programme by identifying projects/activities that will help achieve reforms in the following areas: sustainable funding for transport and infrastructure; embracing innovation and technology in transport and infrastructure; productive and liveable cities and regions; and maximising freight productivity.

Council Directions

In November 2015, the Council endorsed 'Council Directions', and agreed for the following seven themes to frame Council's priorities for national reform.

1. **Integrating** our national rail, road, aviation, port and maritime supply chains, and improving integration between land use and infrastructure planning.
2. 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.
3. Developing sustainable, efficient **funding** and delivery models.
4. 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.
5. Improving the **environmental performance** of infrastructure and transport systems – including mitigating adverse environmental effects, such as transport emissions.
6. Continuing a focus on **transport safety** while maintaining awareness of technological developments (positive and disruptive) that may impact safety and security.
7. Removing barriers to **innovation**, and capitalising on new and emerging technologies.

Strategic Work Programme

Work is underway to develop a strategic work programme for Council that will identify future priorities for national cooperation and reforms in infrastructure and transport, which align with the seven themes and are most likely to enhance national productivity, competitiveness and liveability over the longer term. Within this framework, the following four key areas have been identified as strategic reform priorities that are most effectively addressed through national coordination and collaboration:

- Sustainable funding for transport and infrastructure;
- Embracing innovation and technology in transport and infrastructure;
- Productive and liveable cities and regions; and
- Maximising freight productivity.

Aspects of reform under these four strategic reform priorities will be covered in earlier sessions of the Dialogue. During this final session the Department is seeking industry's views on national reform

initiatives not previously discussed, such as how the environmental performance of infrastructure and transport systems can be improved, additional reforms that could contribute to maximising freight productivity and reforms for the sustainable funding for transport and infrastructure.

Questions for discussion

- What are the emerging challenges and pressures impacting the capacity of infrastructure and transport systems from industry's perspective? How could these be addressed?
- What key projects would contribute to the integration of multimodal supply chains to maximise freight productivity?
- How can we make better use of existing infrastructure (while still meeting community expectations of safety, security, access and reliability)?
- How can governments and industry work together to improve the environmental performance of freight transport and infrastructure, including the reduction of emissions?