

Australia

Independent assessment of infrastructure projects



TYPE OF TOOL
*Methodology/
Guidelines/
Requirements*



MAIN SECTORS
All sectors



THEME
Green



INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS
Evidence-informed decision making

In a nutshell



OBJECTIVE: Infrastructure Australia undertakes independent assessments of infrastructure projects and initiatives to prioritise Australia's infrastructure needs.



Agency in charge
Infrastructure Australia



Levels of government
National



Year of implementation
2008



Current status
Fully operational

Overview

Australia has developed a transparent method of project selection to inform Australian Federal budget processes and incentivise sub-national governments and other project proponents to undertake robust appraisals that can include sustainability goals. Infrastructure Australia (IA) undertakes independent assessments of infrastructure projects and initiatives on behalf of the Federal Government against criteria that, in part, includes environmental value. IA publicly releases these evaluations in the form of Infrastructure Priority Lists. For a project or initiative to be assessed, it must be supported by an appraisal deemed adequate by IA. While in Australia, this method could be developed further to include sustainability goals, it provides a structured way for countries to ensure projects and initiatives are robustly appraised against sustainable objectives. IA's assessment of proposals for inclusion on the Priority List is guided by their Assessment Framework. The framework guides IA, and those submitting to IA, on how to identify nationally significant problems and opportunities, and how to consider strategic merit, value for taxpayers and deliverability. Through this transparent process, IA identifies infrastructure needs and guides governments towards infrastructure investments that will deliver the best value for communities. Proposals are assessed against three criteria: i) Strategic fit (considers if there is a clear rationale for the proposal and how it aligns with government strategies and policies); ii) Societal impact (assesses the scale of the problem/opportunity and its value to society and the economy); iii) Deliverability (reviews whether the proposal can be successfully delivered). An infrastructure investment is nationally significant if, based on the evidence presented, it is expected to have a material impact on national output by: i) addressing a problem that would otherwise impose economic, social and/or environmental costs, or ii) providing an opportunity for realising economic, social and/or environmental benefits, or iii) both addressing a problem and providing an opportunity.

REFERENCES:

- Infrastructure Australia, *Infrastructure Priority List*, <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/infrastructure-priority-list>