

18 June 2026

IPWEA Statement on the New Zealand Government Response to the 30-Year Infrastructure Plan

IPWEA welcomes the broad cross-party support for New Zealand's 30-Year Infrastructure Plan and endorses the move towards multi-year budgeting. This reform has the potential to provide greater certainty, strengthen long-term planning, and enable more effective investment in infrastructure assets and services.

We strongly support the move toward multi-year budgeting and improved investment planning frameworks, which align with the Plan's objective of strengthening long-term investment discipline and system capability. The Beehive announcement recognises that New Zealand's infrastructure challenge is not just about how much is spent, but how effectively investment is planned, prioritised, and delivered over time.

Multi-year budgeting will be a key enabler. It provides greater certainty for asset owners, reduces stop-start investment cycles, and supports a more strategic, lifecycle-based approach to infrastructure management. This is particularly important given the acknowledged infrastructure deficit and the need to make smarter, more targeted investment decisions within constrained fiscal settings.

We also strongly endorse the focus on coordinated workforce development and capability uplift across the infrastructure system. Strengthening capability across the infrastructure and asset management profession is essential to improving productivity, resilience, and value for money. This is especially relevant given that New Zealand already invests a relatively high share of GDP on infrastructure but does not consistently achieve commensurate efficiency or outcomes.

IPWEA has a long history of partnering with infrastructure asset owners to build capability. We have worked extensively with local authorities across New Zealand and local government throughout Australasia, and internationally we have contributed to programs such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP), supporting capability uplift across the public works profession.

As the Government moves to implement the Plan, sustained investment in people, systems, and professional capability will be just as critical as investments in physical assets. The success of these reforms depends on a skilled, well-resourced workforce capable of applying best-practice asset management and long-term planning approaches.

IPWEA stands ready to support this effort. Through our education, training, and collaborative programs, we are well placed to assist government agencies, local authorities, and industry partners build the capability required to deliver on the ambitions of the 30-Year Infrastructure Plan. By working together, New Zealand can not only invest in infrastructure but manage it effectively to deliver enduring value for communities now and into the future.

Enquiries: Steve Mooney: Steve.mooney@ipwea.org