

Infrastructure Australia Priority List 2020

The Western Harbour and Warringah Freeway EIS document states as one of the justifications for the project that the project sits on the Infrastructure Australia List ([Chapter 3](#), Table 3-2: Strategic planning and policy framework). Chapter 3 refers to the 2018 list. The 2020 list has recently been published and the WHTWF project has not moved up the priority list whereas several other projects have.

Here are the facts:

Projects listed as higher priority than WHTBL for NSW:

Category 1) High Priority NSW Projects (with assessed business cases) = 3

Category 2) Priority NSW Projects (with assessed business case) = 1

Category 3) High Priority NSW Initiatives (some at Business Case assessment stage) = 12

Total Higher Priority NSW Projects = 16

Of those 16 there are:

8 Higher priority public transport projects

7 Higher priority projects in Regional Areas/ Western Sydney

Category 4) Priority Initiatives

WHTBL falls into the fourth and bottom category ie) Priority Initiatives where it states that it does not yet have a business case assessed. There are 25 OTHER priorities on the Priority Initiatives list, many are public transport or rail freight initiatives that would take vehicles off our roads. Why is WHTBL being moved up the priority list when there are:

16 Projects in NSW with a higher priority than the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link Projects. **4 of these projects** have had a full business case review and a “rigorous assessment” done by Infrastructure Australia. The WHTBL projects continue to be marked as business case is still “under development” yet an EIS has been published laying claim to the project needs and claiming a full assessment has been done.

Conclusion:

The WHTBL project sits amongst 32 other projects in the bottom category of the Infrastructure Australia list. Infrastructure has earmarked it as a possible priority under the condition that a valid business case be submitted for assessment. A business case has not been published. The Upper House has called for the Business case of several occasions and it has not been presented to Parliament, Infrastructure Australia or the Public. There are 16 other higher priority projects in NSW many of whom have assessed business cases and several of which are located in Western Sydney and Regional Areas – the areas that most need the governments investment following drought, bushfires and the economic downturn due to COVID-19.

How to read the Priority List

Proposals on the *Infrastructure Priority List* are divided into two broad groups:

- **Projects** are advanced proposals that have a full business case, which Infrastructure Australia has assessed as capable of addressing a nationally significant problem or opportunity and delivering robust economic, social or environmental outcomes. Projects remain on the Priority List until delivery or construction begins.
- **Initiatives** are proposals that Infrastructure Australia has determined have the potential to address a nationally significant problem or opportunity. Infrastructure Australia includes them on the Priority List to indicate that further development and rigorous assessment of these proposals is a national priority.

These proposals are again divided into two categories, **High Priority** and **Priority**, to indicate the comparative significance of the problems or opportunities they address. We use these categories in order to direct decision maker's attention to the most critical issues, while also offering a comprehensive view of all problems and opportunities of national significance.

High Priority Projects

Project name	Problem/opportunity description	Delivery timeframe (years)	Category	Page
New South Wales				
M4 Motorway upgrade Parramatta to Lapstone	Connectivity in outer western Sydney	0-5		36
Sydney Metro: City and Southwest	Sydney rail network capacity	0-5		37
Western Sydney Airport	Sydney aviation capacity	5-10		38

Priority Projects

Project name	Problem/opportunity description	Delivery timeframe (years)	Category	Page
New South Wales				
Nowra Bridge	Shoalhaven River crossing capacity	0-5		45

High Priority Initiatives

Initiative name	Problem/opportunity description	Timeframe (years)	Category	Next steps	Page
New South Wales					
Regional NSW road network safety improvements	Safety on regional roads in New South Wales	0-10		Initiative identification and options development	77
Sydney Gateway Connection between WestConnex at St Peters and Sydney Airport/Port Botany	Sydney road network capacity	0-5		Business case development	78
Public transport capacity Parramatta Road and Victoria Road corridors	Congestion on Sydney's Parramatta Road and Victoria Road corridors	0-5		Initiative identification and options development	79
Sydney rail network capacity	Sydney rail network capacity	0-5		Business case assessment	80
Southern Sydney to CBD public transport enhancement	Connectivity between inner south urban growth area and Sydney CBD	5-10		Initiative identification and options development	81
Sydney Metro West Mass transit between Parramatta and Sydney CBD	Connectivity between Parramatta and Sydney CBD	5-10		Business case development	82
Port Botany freight rail duplication	Sydney freight rail network capacity	0-5		Business case assessment	83
Chullora Junction upgrade	Sydney freight rail network capacity	0-5		Initiative identification and options development	84
Corridor preservation for Western Sydney Airport fuel pipeline	Future fuel connection to Western Sydney Airport	0-5		Initiative identification and options development	85
Corridor preservation for Western Sydney Freight Line and Intermodal Terminal access	Future freight rail capacity to Eastern Creek intermodal and Sydney Main West Line	0-5		Business case development	86
Corridor preservation for Outer Sydney Orbital road and rail / M9, and Castlereagh connection	Future connectivity between Western Sydney and Central Coast/Illawarra	0-5		Initiative identification and options development	87
Corridor preservation for Western Sydney Airport rail connections	Future rail connections to Western Sydney Airport	0-5		Initiative identification and options development	88

Priority Initiatives

Initiative name	Problem/opportunity description	Timeframe (years)	Category	Next steps	Page
New South Wales					
John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct capacity	Capacity constraints and opportunity for new services	10-15		Initiative identification and options development	109
Active transport (walking and cycling) access to Sydney CBD	Inner city access to Sydney CBD	0-5		Business case development	110
Sydney CBD motorways optimisation	Inner Sydney road network capacity	0-5		Initiative identification and options development	111
Prospect Highway capacity	Western Sydney road network capacity	0-5		Business case development	112
A3 and A6 corridor capacity	Southern Sydney to Ryde road network capacity	0-5		Business case development	113
Public transport access to Parramatta CBD	Public transport access to Parramatta CBD	0-10		Initiative identification and options development	114
Central Station redevelopment Rail and station infrastructure	Redevelopment of rail and station infrastructure at Central Station	5-10		Initiative identification and options development	115
M6 Motorway Connection between the M1 Princes Motorway at Waterfall and the Sydney motorway network	Connectivity between Wollongong and Sydney	5-10		Business case development	116
Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link	Sydney road network cross-harbour and Northern Beaches connectivity	5-10		Business case development	117
Newell Highway upgrade	Connectivity between Melbourne and Brisbane	0-5		Business case development	118
Pacific Highway (A1) Coffs Harbour bypass	Connectivity between Sydney and Brisbane	0-5		Business case development	119
Pacific Motorway (M1) Extension to Raymond Terrace	Connectivity between Sydney and Brisbane	0-5		Business case development	120

Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan	Access to Western Sydney and Western Sydney Airport	0-5		Various stages	121
Freight rail access to Port Kembla	Freight rail access to Port Kembla	0-5		Initiative identification and options development	122
Moorebank Intermodal Terminal road connections upgrade	Road network connectivity to Moorebank Intermodal Terminal	0-5		Initiative identification and options development	123
Great Western Highway improvements Katoomba to Lithgow	Road connectivity between Katoomba and Lithgow	0-5		Initiative identification and options development	124
Princes Highway safety and capacity Nowra, NSW to Victorian border	Road connectivity between Nowra and Victorian border	0-5		Initiative identification and options development	125
Southern Sydney Freight Line upgrade	Southern Sydney to Moorebank rail freight capacity	10-15		Business case development	126
New England Highway upgrade	Road connectivity between Sydney and Brisbane	5-10		Business case development	127
Picton Road safety and capacity	Road connectivity between Wollongong and south-west Sydney	5-10		Initiative identification and options development	128
Western Sydney Airport public transport connections	Access to Western Sydney Airport	5-10		Initiative identification and options development	129
Northern Sydney Freight Corridor Stage 2 Additional track West Ryde to Rhodes and Thornleigh to Hornsby	Sydney freight rail network capacity	5-10		Business case development	130
Newcastle–Sydney and Wollongong–Sydney rail line upgrades	Connectivity between Newcastle, Wollongong and Sydney CBD	10-15		Initiative identification and options development	131
Sydney cruise terminal capacity	Berthing capacity for cruise ships in Sydney	0-5		Business case development	132
South Creek integrated land use and water cycle management	Opportunity for integrated water cycle management benefits	0-5		Business case development	133
Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley flood management	Flood mitigation in Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley	0-5		Business case development	134

Link to full list: <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/infrastructure-priority-list>