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IA PROGRESS REPORT SHOWS A PROMISING START, BUT STILL MUCH MORE TO DO ON INFRASTRUCTURE REFORM

Today's [*Prioritising Reform: Progress on the 2016 Australian Infrastructure Plan*](#) report released by Infrastructure Australia today shows that progress is being made, but there is still much more to do to deliver modern services for a growing Australia, says [Infrastructure Partnerships Australia](#).

"Infrastructure Australia is to be commended for its persistent efforts in highlighting national reform priorities that deserve the attention of every policymaker across Australia," said Infrastructure Partnerships Australia Chief Executive, Adrian Dwyer.

"Today's report sets out that good progress has been made in some critical areas such as heavy vehicle road user charging, transport and land use planning, and in business case development.

"The Federal Government's May Budget included \$250 million for a Major Project Business Case Fund, a welcome signal that Australia must do the homework on projects, before it does the groundwork."

Today's report from Infrastructure Australia continues to highlight the pressing need to reform the way we charge for and invest in our road networks.

"As more and more electric and fuel-efficient vehicles are sold every year, the revenue base to pay for new and existing roads is in terminal decline," Mr Dwyer said.

"We need the bi-partisan panel on road user charging appointed and announced so we can start the conversation with the community on a fairer road charging system.

"The uptake of electric vehicles is a good thing. However, there is a once in a generation opportunity to progress action on road reform by attaching road user charges to the inevitable rise of electric vehicles before they become a car dealership mainstay."

The report also sets out that there has been little reform to energy and water markets, which will become more apparent if no action is taken in the near future.

"We are not at crisis point yet, however, consumers are already feeling the pinch with bills going up and investment tracking down," Mr Dwyer continued.





“There needs to be certainty in the market so that investment in the energy and water sectors can occur – delivering vital new infrastructure which can help get prices tracking down for consumers.

“It’s easy to forget that Australia has been world leading on infrastructure delivery, but that’s a reputation which is hard won, and easily lost – if we stand still on reform we risk falling to the second tier of infrastructure nations.

“While Australia is still in a good position, the report makes it clear that there are critical challenges to address if we are going to stay ahead of the curve on infrastructure.”

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