MEDIA RELEASE: 2019-20 FEDERAL BUDGET

ELECTION BUDGET BREATHES LIFE BACK INTO INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Tonight's Federal Election Budget delivers a welcome boost to infrastructure, restoring $8 billion in funding, says industry think tank Infrastructure Partnerships Australia.

"We welcome the $8 billion increase in funding for infrastructure, lifting total funding to $29.5 billion over the forward estimates," said Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, Chief Executive Adrian Dwyer.

"We are particularly pleased to see real funding preferred over voodoo accounting.

"The Government has taken the sensible step of reversing the recent decline in funding for critical projects, ensuring the heavy lifting on infrastructure investment isn't left to state and territory governments.

"In welcome news, the Government will provide $5.2 million for the design of a freight data hub, including arrangements for data collection, protection, dissemination and hosting.

"This is a small budget allocation but a crucial investment in unlocking freight productivity.

"While we welcome the overall increase in total infrastructure funding, we need to be realistic that this budget is delivered in the context of a looming election and funding alone won't solve our longer-term challenges.

"Australia's next Parliament must tackle the big issues like settling energy policy to end the investment strike, dealing with our looming road funding crisis, and driving big ticket infrastructure reforms to boost productivity," said Mr Dwyer.

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia is the nation's industry think tank providing independent policy research focused on excellence in social and economic infrastructure.
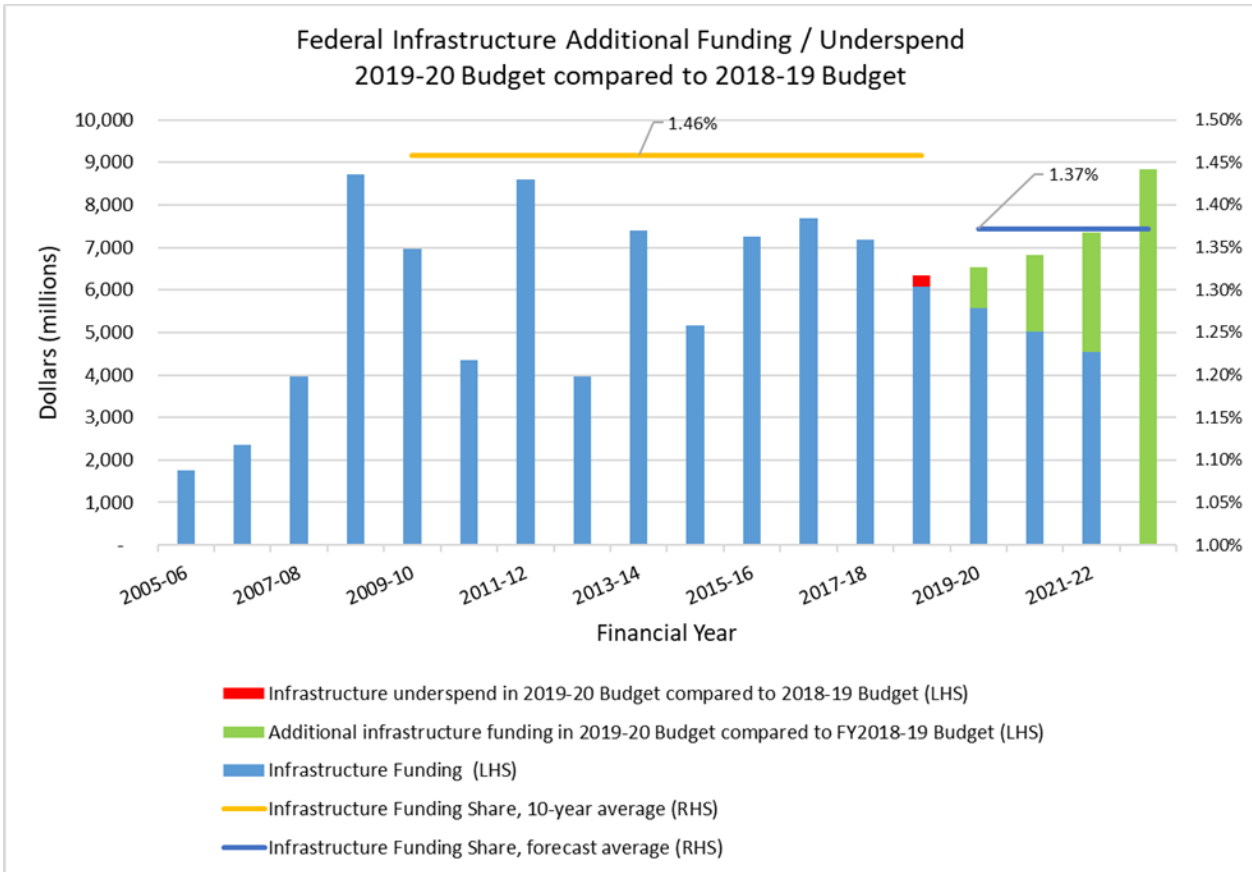
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Analysis attached: Committed Federal general government infrastructure funding

Committed Federal general government infrastructure funding 2005-06 to 2022-23

Federal Infrastructure Additional Funding / Underspend
2019-20 Budget compared to 2018-19 Budget

Legend:
- Infrastructure underspend in 2019-20 Budget compared to 2018-19 Budget (LHS)
- Additional infrastructure funding in 2019-20 Budget compared to FY2018-19 Budget (LHS)
- Infrastructure Funding (LHS)
- Infrastructure Funding Share, 10-year average (RHS)
- Infrastructure Funding Share, forecast average (RHS)

Source: IPA analysis of 2019-20 Budget