



MEDIA RELEASE: 2022-23 FEDERAL BUDGET

ELECTION BUDGET DELIVERS THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY ON INFRASTRUCTURE

Tonight's Federal Election Budget delivers the good, the bad, and the ugly on infrastructure, says industry think tank [Infrastructure Partnerships Australia](https://www.infrastructure.org.au).

"Ahead of the looming election in May, the Federal Government has delivered a Budget that contains the good, the bad, and the downright ugly on infrastructure," said Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, Chief Executive Adrian Dwyer.

"We welcome the significant \$9 billion increase in funding for infrastructure, lifting total spending to \$66 billion over the next four years.

"This is a substantial 16 per cent increase on last year's Federal Budget allocation to infrastructure, which was already at a historic high.

"We are particularly pleased to see a sensible focus on freight in Victoria and faster rail in NSW and QLD.

"Our freight sector plays a vital role in keeping Australia's economy moving, so it is essential we have the infrastructure in place to make rail freight a preferred long-haul mode over the longer term.

"While we welcome these well-considered rail infrastructure commitments, there is still taxpayer money chasing sub-economic projects in this Budget.

"The Federal Government must get out of the habit of allocating money for projects that have limited evidence of taxpayer value and little to no proper planning.

"The shine has been taken off the good infrastructure commitments in this Budget by the decision to cut Fuel Excise in half for the next six months.

"A cut to Fuel Excise, even this temporary cut, is poor policy, plain and simple. As policy ideas go, this one has got more hairs on it than Bluey.

"Cutting Fuel Excise will reduce receipts by almost \$6 billion with a net impact to the Budget of around \$3 billion.

"This move also sends entirely the wrong signals about the types of cars we want people to drive, and above all it will make virtually sod all difference at the bowser.

"With volatile prices, any cut you make to Fuel Excise is likely to be chewed up in the next price rise at the pumps.





“Instead of tinkering at the margins on Fuel Excise, the Government would be far better placed using its funding fire power to encourage the states and territories to follow the lead of Victoria, NSW, and South Australia and apply a road user charge on electric vehicles.

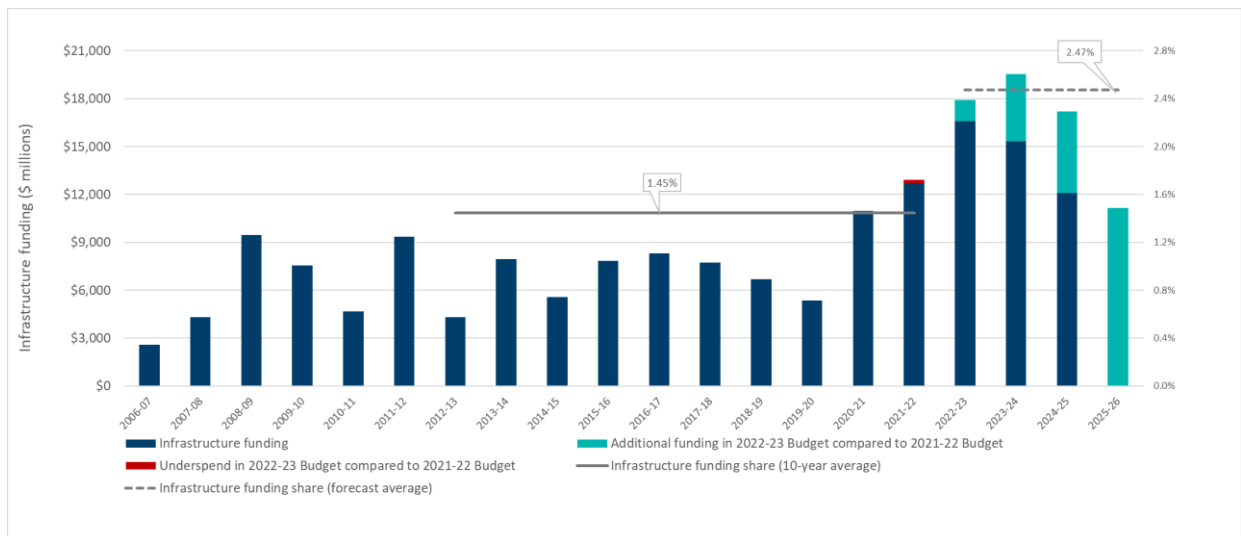
“Regardless of who makes it across the line at the next Federal Election, the Government will need to reset its approach by developing a coherent vision and strategy for its infrastructure dollars.

“Australia’s next Parliament must tackle the big issues like settling energy and emissions policy, 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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Committed Federal general government infrastructure funding 2007-08 to 2025-26



Source: Infrastructure Partnerships Australia Analysis of 2022-23 Federal Budget

