



MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRALIA NEEDS A NATIONAL PLAN FOR DECARBONISING INFRASTRUCTURE

Ahead of the looming Federal Election, [Infrastructure Partnerships Australia](https://www.infrastructure.org.au) has released a new landmark report, *Decarbonising Infrastructure*, setting out the policy actions all governments and industry need to take to decarbonise Australia's infrastructure sector.

The report provides a decarbonisation action plan for our energy and transport sectors and sets out the steps we need take to reduce emissions embedded through construction, operation, and waste.

"Regardless of which party makes it across the line at the next election, Australia will need to reset its approach to decarbonisation and develop a coherent vision and national plan for our pathway to net zero," said Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, Chief Executive Adrian Dwyer.

"While there is considerable progress underway, change will come faster and with less disruption if it is guided by a national plan that sets out a clear actionable decarbonisation agenda.

"There is a wall of private capital looking for opportunities to drive decarbonisation in Australia.

"Without a clear national plan that provides regulatory and policy clarity, Australia risks being left behind our peers, with capital flowing to other nations with compelling, long-term mandates for low-carbon investment.

"The path to decarbonising Australia's energy system has been apparent for many years.

"A twenty-first century grid needs to have solar and wind at its heart, backed by firming technologies, and a modern transmission network.

"Successfully transitioning Australia's energy system is the first critical step to driving decarbonisation efforts across our other infrastructure assets.

"The good news is the technology pathway to zero-emission transport already exists – but governments can do more to support this transition.

"To rapidly decarbonise our passenger fleets, we need to introduce national standards on vehicle emissions, rapidly transition our electric buses, and ensure our public transport is renewable-powered.

"Better planning of our freight networks, rapidly electrifying local delivery, and piloting the use of zero emissions fuels in areas like aviation and shipping will all be critical in our decarbonisation journey.





“With a record project pipeline underway, and a range of pressures across the industry, it would be easy to suggest Australia lacks the time and capacity to plan and design lower-carbon infrastructure.

“The scale of investment on the horizon provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to embed low- to zero- carbon solutions into the design, construction, and operation of infrastructure assets.

“Governments hold the biggest levers for reducing emissions embedded through construction, generated by asset operations, and left behind through waste – we just need to start pulling them.

“Simply put, governments must be prepared to purchase the low-carbon infrastructure outcome they want from the private sector if they are serious about their commitments to net zero-emissions by 2050.

“With the right incentives in place, industry will respond with new techniques, new materials, and new ideas, but we must be willing embrace those changes, which means a big cultural shift in the way we plan and deliver infrastructure.

“Across our infrastructure asset classes, the benefits of decarbonisation to our collective prosperity clearly outweigh the costs.

“The risks of inaction are immense, the imperative is clear – so let’s get on with the job of decarbonising infrastructure,” 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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