



MEDIA RELEASE

NEW REPORT LAYS THE FOUNDATION FOR REMOTE SERVICE DELIVERY

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia has today released a report calling for new national minimum standards of remote service delivery across water, energy and telecommunications.

“We are one of the world’s richest countries, yet perhaps as many as a million Australians live without reliable access to the basic water, energy, and telecommunications services. This is not about a lack of good intent. This is a bloody hard problem to solve, but we can do more to solve it,” said Infrastructure Partnerships Australia Chief Executive, Adrian Dwyer.

“We have committed to Sustainable Development Goals and Closing the Gap targets, yet the remote infrastructure reform can has been kicked down the road for decades. Every year, we spend millions of well-meaning dollars to plaster over the cracks, instead of rebuilding the wall.

The report proposes the creation of ‘Community Infrastructure Partnerships’ (CIPs), as a new mechanism to provide the funding and financing required to deliver remote infrastructure and replace the patchwork of solutions currently in operation. “Our proposed new mechanism will unlock the funding and financing to deliver real solutions. The Australian infrastructure market has shown it can lead through collaboration and building social licence, transparency and accountability in delivering major infrastructure projects. Delivering for our remote communities needs to be our next priority.

“There’s no denying the enormity of the challenge – but by implementing Community Infrastructure Partnerships – we can begin the journey of providing remote communities with better long-term assets. By fostering a spirit of collaboration, innovation and open-mindedness in solving long-standing service delivery challenges, we can ensure taxpayer money goes further in remote Australia.”

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia has identified the way forward and is calling for:

- commitment from all governments through National Cabinet to establish minimum standards of service delivery for all Australians across water, energy and telecommunications, and report on their performance against these standards
- evolution of Community Service Obligations (CSOs) into a new model of Community Infrastructure Partnerships, which take a user-centric, technology-first and collaborative approach to service delivery in remote areas
- a commitment from governments to fund and finance the investments in remote infrastructure required to deliver real change, and
- governments to undertake regulatory reforms to enable CIPs, build social licence for change and give local communities greater say in the services they receive.





The Gilghi off-grid water purifying system is an example of a project working now in the community. Aurecon and Ampcontrol developed the system, which is designed to service remote Indigenous communities with potable water. The unit can operate using solar generation, a battery energy storage system, backup diesel generators and also connect to mains power. The unit is capable of producing 28 kilolitres of potable, treated water per day through a containerised water treatment plant. The plant can produce potable water that meets the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and requires little ongoing maintenance.

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia is the nation's industry think tank providing independent policy research focused on excellence in social and economic infrastructure.

Figure 1: Gilghi off-grid water purifying system



Source: Ampcontrol

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