

**Infrastructure Australia
National Freight Policy Developments**

What is Infrastructure Australia?

Infrastructure Australia is a statutory body established to advise governments, investors and infrastructure owners on a wide range of issues including:

- Australia's current and future infrastructure needs;
- Mechanisms for financing infrastructure investments; and
- Policy, pricing and regulation and their impacts on investment and on the efficiency of the delivery, operation and use of national infrastructure networks.

Long Term Freight Strategies

Infrastructure Australia is currently developing a number of long term freight strategies to secure productivity gains through the effective integration of these policies with transport and land use planning.

The two most notable strategies are the *National Ports Strategy* (December 2010) and the *National Land Freight Strategy* (February 2011) which is currently in the discussion paper phase. A National Aviation Policy may be next in line.

The National Ports Strategy

The purpose of the *National Ports Strategy* is to 'drive the development of efficient, sustainable and safe ports and related freight logistics, which together balance the needs of a growing Australian community and economy, with the quality of life aspirations of the Australian people.'¹

The strategy is designed to cover both bulk commodity and container ports and considers the following issues:

- The future infrastructure requirements of Australia's ports
- The most effective regulatory and governance frameworks
- Ways to improve land planning and corridor preservation
- A nationally coordinated approach to the future development and planning of port and freight infrastructure.

¹ http://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/national_ports/files/National_Ports_Strategy_DEC2010_v2.pdf

The *National Ports Strategy* aims to improve efficiency, minimise external costs and improve safety and national security. Visit

http://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/gateways/files/National_Ports_Strategy_DE_C2010_v2.pdf for more detailed information about the *National Ports Strategy*.

The National Land Freight Strategy

Infrastructure Australia has developed a *National Land Freight Strategy Discussion Paper* in an attempt to address the lack of planning for freight growth and how best to capitalise on future opportunities. The strategy aims to address the fragmented state based planning of road and rail access to ports, airports and other commercial business hubs that require freight transport. The strategy looks at the importance of integrated planning and investment for rail and road infrastructure. For more information visit

http://infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/publications/files/NLFS_220211.pdf

A final National Land Freight Strategy is expected to be released later in 2011. Meanwhile, below is a broad indicative map of the national land freight network as published in the *National Land Freight Strategy Discussion Paper*.

