

Removing the road blocks:

How do we better deliver
infrastructure for growth?

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The big stuff is easy!

- Ports, rail, major highways, desalination plants, mines
- Fewer layers of government, simple approvals, politically appealing, loved by all...

What about stormwater, sewer, power, water supply, roads?

- Frustrating
- Slow & protracted
- Territorial disputes
- Multiple negotiations

30 year plan and Strategic Infrastructure Plan

Significant advance on the old ways:

- Divorcing re-zoning from infrastructure
- Linking infrastructure planning and land use planning
- Better coordination across government

The planning is cool. What about the doing?

- Slightly different challenges:
 - (1) TODs and urban infill
 - (2) Greenfield development

TODs and urban infill

- Capacity augmentation - how much to do now and how much for the future
- Access and disruption
- Fixing up old problems
- Multiple players (DTEI, ETSA, SAWC, Local Govt, State Govt, developers, neighbours...)

Greenfield sites

- Outer metro areas - under pressure already
- Main or Head works and platform infrastructure - who, where, when
- Multiple players still (perhaps fewer neighbours)

Funding

- Don't mention the war. I mentioned it once, but I think I got away with it....
- Now put your hand up if you want to pay for all of this.....anyone.....??
- Thought so!

Funding options?

- No easy answer.
- Apart from funding from General Revenue, there is no simple single solution.
- A flexible approach is critical – enable different funding options.

Coordinating delivery

- Along with funding, this is the biggest challenge.
- Government Planning and Coordination Committee (GPCC) a good start, but not enough – only state public servants, no powers to do anything as a single entity.

A possible solution?

- Independent expert statutory authority (like the DAC, EPA, DPP).

Independent Experts

- Independent – no direct political considerations, no election cycles to worry about;
- Members to have expertise in development, engineering, infrastructure planning, economics, public administration etc.

Objectives?

- Linked to policy by an obligation to facilitate Planning Strategy and Strategic Infrastructure Plan;
- Required to take into account other relevant factors such as equity, social justice, environment, economic development etc;
- Accountable to Parliament and public audit;

Power to do things

- Power to undertake infrastructure projects on DTEI and local government roads, to acquire private land;
- Power to require other service/infrastructure providers (SAWC, ETSA, Local Govt) to build;
- Power to enter into arrangements with others to deliver projects (cooperate with Local Govt, developers, private infrastructure providers etc);

Flexible funding options

Ability to raise funds for infrastructure:

- Funded from General Revenue, Commonwealth, share of Local Govt rates, private arrangements with developers etc;
- Flexible funding options.

Why?

- **Independent** and not subject to pork barrelling allegations or short election cycles that don't match infrastructure design, construction and funding timeframes;
- **Expert**, not political or “representative” – but still accountable;

Why? continued

- **Powers** to make things happen rather than get bogged down in territorial or budget arguments;
- **Guided** by broad objectives (in special legislation) and Planning and Infrastructure Strategies determined by politicians and public.