

Government support of major projects

Talking points

- The Government supports major projects in Australia by:
 - promoting and welcoming foreign investment (eg. Austrade investment promotion activities);
 - promoting and investing in infrastructure projects of national significance (eg. Infrastructure Australia and The Building Australia Fund);
 - facilitating major projects of national significance (eg. The Major Project Facilitation program); and
 - working with business and State and Territory Governments to reduce the impact of Australia's regulatory framework.
- The Government welcomes foreign investment. Such investment funds many major projects in Australia. In recent years, foreign investment has significantly contributed to the development of sectors such as coal seam gas extraction and magnetite mining.
 - In late 2009, the Government abolished the requirement that private foreign investors seek approval to establish new businesses in Australia, further facilitating foreign investment in major new projects.
- The Government established Infrastructure Australia in 2008 to develop a strategic blueprint for timely and coordinated delivery of national infrastructure investment. We have also established the Building Australia Fund to fund critical infrastructure in the transport, communications, water and energy sectors.
 - The Building Australia Fund is currently providing \$7.6 billion in funding to major road, rail and port infrastructure projects across Australia (excludes Tasmania: see [Attachment A](#)).
- The Government's Major Project Facilitation program accords special status to major projects across a range of sectors that will deliver significant benefits to the Australian economy (eg. employment and export earnings). The program includes assisting major project investors with regulatory approvals and access to existing Government assistance programs (eg. business migration, tariff concessions, employment and training and renewable energy assistance programs).
 - The North West Shelf and Gorgon projects were previously provided assistance under the program.
 - Current major projects are from the oil and gas and minerals sector, agri-business and advanced manufacturing (see [Attachment B](#)).
 - The status granted to projects can raise their profile, promoting further interest in the projects from potential customers and investors, as well as opening avenues to additional funding sources.

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ATTACHMENT A: Major infrastructure projects (The Building Australia Fund)

NSW	<p><i>Hunter Expressway</i></p> <p>Construction is expected to commence in 2010 and is scheduled for completion by 2013. The total Federal investment will be \$1.5 billion.</p> <p><i>Pacific Highway Kempsey Bypass</i></p> <p>Construction is expected to commence in 2010 and is scheduled for completion by 2014. The total Federal investment will be \$618 million, bringing the overall commitment to the Pacific Highway to \$3.1 billion.</p>
QLD	<p><i>Ipswich Motorway Additional Works</i></p> <p>Construction commenced in 2009 and is scheduled for completion by 2012. The total Federal investment will be \$884 million, bringing the overall commitment to the Ipswich Motorway to over \$2.5 billion.</p> <p><i>Gold Coast Rapid Transit</i></p> <p>Construction is expected to commence in 2011 and is scheduled for completion in 2013. The total Federal investment will be \$365 million.</p>
SA	<p><i>Gawler Rail Line Modernisation</i></p> <p>Construction is expected to commence in 2010 and is scheduled for completion in 2013. The total Federal investment will be \$293.5 million.</p> <p><i>Noarlunga to Seaford Rail Extension</i></p> <p>Construction is expected to commence in 2010 and is scheduled for completion in 2013. The total Federal investment will be \$291.2 million.</p>
VIC	<p><i>Regional Rail Link</i></p> <p>Construction is expected to commence in 2010 and is scheduled for completion in 2014. The total Federal investment will be \$3.2 billion.</p> <p><i>Melbourne Metro 1 Preconstruction Work</i></p> <p>Construction is expected to commence in 2012 and is scheduled for completion in 2018. The total Federal investment will be \$40 million.</p>
WA	<p><i>Oakajee Port Common User Facilities</i></p> <p>Construction is expected to commence in 2010-11 and to be completed in 2013-14.</p>
NT	<p><i>Darwin Port Expansion</i></p> <p>Construction is expected to commence in 2010-11 and additional berths could be operational from 2012-13.</p>

Note: Information in this table is public and may be disclosed.

Source: Department of Infrastructure and Transport

pages 3-7 exempt under section 47G