

## Gateway to Innovate

Adapt.

Create.

Improve.

# Guidelines

## Section 1 - Background to the initiative

The infrastructure industry faces an unprecedented combination of market constraints on top of cost and demand escalation pressures. This comes at a time of greater focus on efficiency, sustainability and demand to meet targets to achieve net zero via infrastructure projects.

The current Australian public infrastructure pipeline is budgeted at over \$230 billion at a time when the Australian infrastructure industry is expecting a shortage of 229,000 workers ([Infrastructure Market Capacity Report](#), Infrastructure Australia, 2023). As an industry we need to look for more innovative approaches to lift productivity as we develop and deliver transport infrastructure projects.

Via our industry engagement touch points a range of infrastructure industry partners have expressed a desire to work with Transport for NSW (Transport) to identify opportunities for innovation and realise benefits to cost and overall productivity. In our 2023 sentiment monitor, 70% of industry respondents indicated they were concerned about the lack of opportunity to innovate. Industry has told us that there are several barriers that can limit innovation. These include the length of the project lifecycle, standards and specifications, and that new approaches and materials can be costly and perceived as high risk to trial on projects. It is clear, we need to shift the dial on industry's relationship with innovation.

To date Transport has implemented innovation programs that focus largely on customer outcomes. This highlights a gap and presents an opportunity for Transport to create a gateway for industry to partner with us on capital projects and trial innovative approaches to improve productivity. Encouraging innovation will help Transport resolve existing challenges with an objective to create safer, sustainable and efficient projects in the longer term with flow on benefits to the customer and community at large.



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