

What we Heard Report

South Australia's
20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy
Discussion Paper



infrastructure.sa.gov.au



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect the First Peoples of this land and their deep ongoing spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

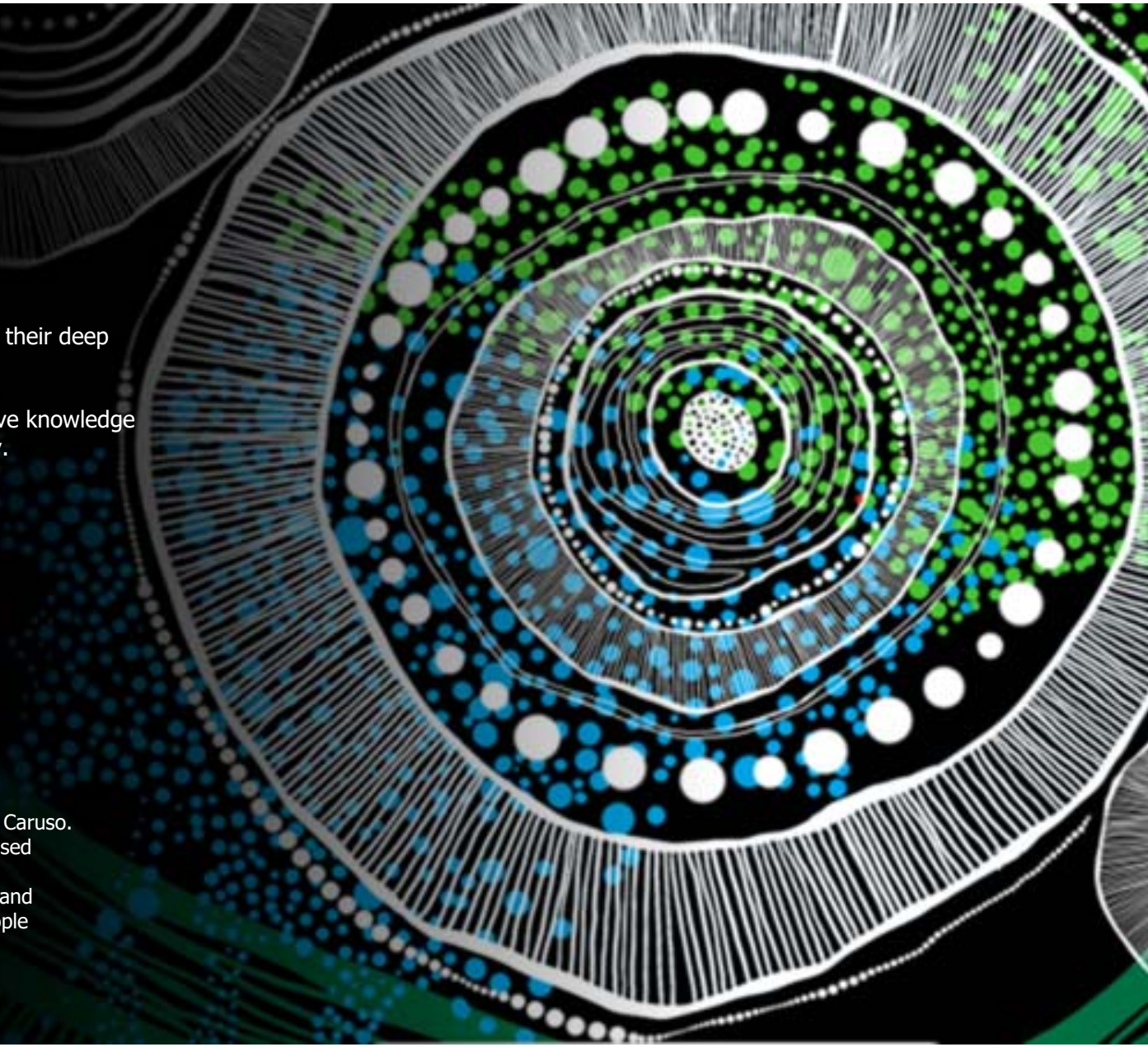
We will work with our First Nations people to share our collective knowledge and recognise the enduring impact of infrastructure on Country.

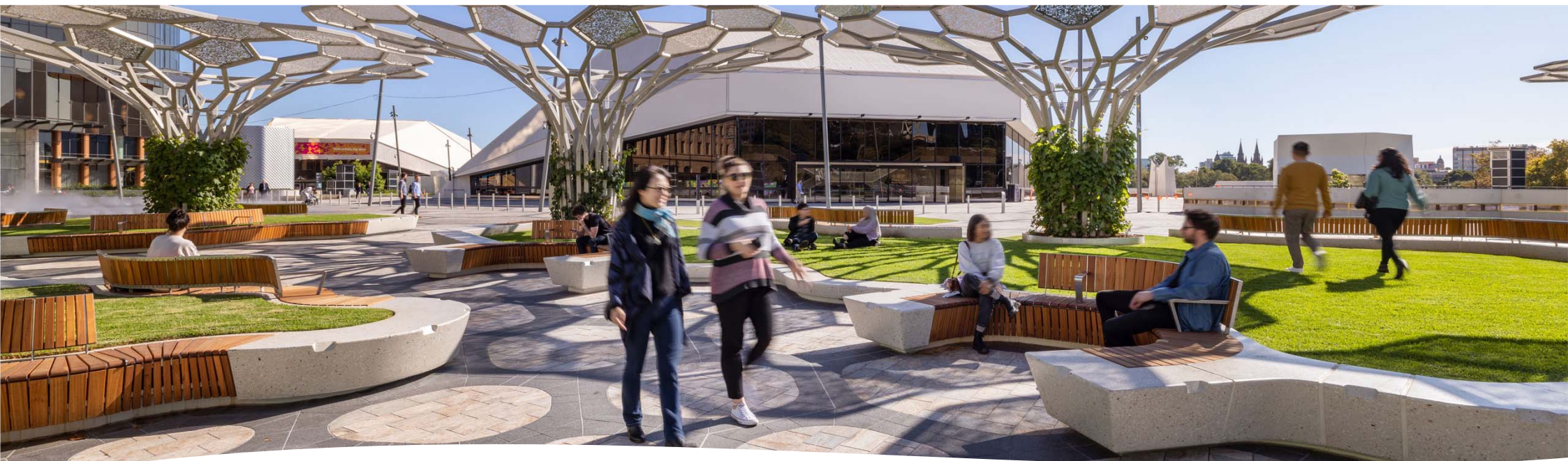
Cover image: Adelaide Entertainment Centre Tram Stop
Image courtesy of Department for Infrastructure and Transport

Image this page:

Artwork created for Infrastructure SA by Eastern Arrernte artist Patrick Caruso. Patrick is the founder of We Create Print Deliver, a South Australian based advertising and business agency.

The artwork represents Infrastructures SA and our people, knowledge and skills, the projects and communities impacted by our work and the people travelling through the landscape via the work that we do.





The 20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy

Infrastructure SA is currently developing a new 20-Year Infrastructure Strategy for the State.

The new strategy will look at state-wide infrastructure needs to 2045, with a focus on infrastructure planning and investments that drive a growing economy aligned to the State's economic vision of a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy.

To inform the development of the Strategy we released a [Discussion Paper](#) for consultation and asked South Australians their views on the key infrastructure challenges and opportunities we need to consider in our planning.

This report provides an overview of the feedback we received, together with a summary of the key themes that emerged during the consultation process.

How we engaged

We invited South Australians, including the broader community, councils, industries, interest and advocacy groups to provide feedback on our Discussion Paper. Feedback was open between 1 October and 13 November 2023.

The Discussion Paper identified six key strategic objectives and posed a series of 26 consultation questions relating to these objectives.

Feedback was received via written submissions direct to Infrastructure SA or via submitting comments using an online submission form on the YourSAy website. The YourSAy site also hosted a short survey to capture perspectives on the importance of the six objectives and test views around infrastructure focus areas for unlocking growth.

To promote our engagement and encourage feedback from a broad audience, we used a range of communication channels including local media, social media and direct contact. Targeted stakeholder engagement was also undertaken with key government agencies and selected industry representatives to ensure their insights were captured.

Our six strategic objectives



1. Enabling infrastructure unlocks higher productivity and economic growth to improve our living standards



2. Liveable and well-planned places attract skilled people, support a growing population and create prosperous communities



3. Accessible and inclusive infrastructure supports social inclusion and economic participation



4. Infrastructure supports a decarbonised, sustainable economy that capitalises on our competitive advantages and opportunities



5. Improved resilience to shocks and events helps avoid or respond to disruptions that impact our economy, services and supply chains



6. A stronger infrastructure industry optimises our infrastructure investment through better planning and prioritisation

Who we heard from

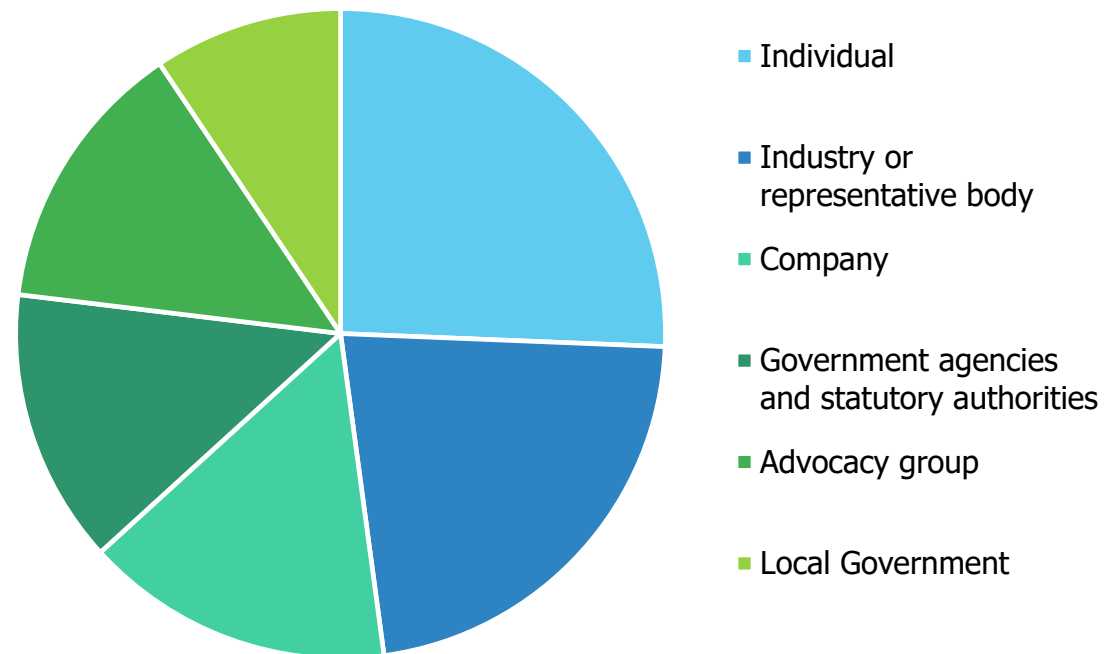
A total of 214 stakeholders provided their views and feedback during the 6-week consultation period, either as a written submission (online or via email) or by completing the online survey. Reach and interest was broad with:

- Over 2,440 visits to the YourSAy site
- 1,863 downloads of the Discussion Paper
- 118 written submissions
- 94 online surveys
- 25 stakeholder meetings
- 6 industry presentations

Respondents represented a diverse range of stakeholder groups and industry sectors. A summary of submissions received by stakeholder group is shown in Figure 1.

Written submissions received have been published on the Infrastructure SA website (infrastructure.sa.gov.au).

Figure 1. Submissions received by stakeholder group



What we heard

We heard strong support for all six objectives presented in the discussion paper.

Six key themes emerged as the most frequently raised topics of discussion, as shown on the right hand side, and discussed in more detail on the following pages.

The most frequently raised topic across public and community advocacy group submissions was public and active transport.

Topics raised in submissions from industry, industry bodies and other stakeholders were broader and typically focused on the challenges and opportunities most relevant to each industry or body.

Key themes



Integrated planning



Energy transition



Public and active transport



Freight



Climate resilience



Digital connectivity

What we heard



Integrated planning

We heard that:

- Industry currently experiences a fragmented approach to planning with strategic planning undertaken across multiple government agencies.
- Better coordination as well as greater transparency in planning and decision making was called for.
- Water, wastewater, and public transport infrastructure should be planned and funded in advance of greenfield developments.
- An uncertain project pipeline is leading to fluctuations in the supply of both materials and the skilled workforce required to undertake infrastructure projects.
- Coordination across all levels of government is required to ensure that the workforce has the skills required to achieve economic growth.



Energy transition

We heard that:

- The unknown role of different technologies in the future energy system is causing uncertainty for investment.
- There is a potential for decentralised energy generation assets (such as rooftop solar) to reduce the need for large scale energy transmission.
- In relation to the energy transition to net zero, both the hydrogen and electrification scenarios require a skilled workforce that SA currently lacks. Government has a role to play in ensuring that the education system is prioritising the skills required.
- Hard to abate industries require a coordinated approach to decarbonisation.

What we heard



Freight

We heard that:

- Reactivation of former rail lines as well as new extensions could improve freight efficiency for regional industries such as grain and mining.
- Shifting more freight from road to rail could alleviate the funding backlog for maintenance of regional roads and improve safety on the road network.
- Intermodal hubs and improvements in connections between the rail network and ports would improve export efficiency.
- Better access to rail network is important infrastructure to unlock economic growth in regional areas.



Public and active transport

We heard that:

- Improved connectivity between active transport and public transport options is needed.
- We need more frequent and prioritised services to growth areas.
- Many respondents would like to see a focus on planning for public transport and active transport as an alternative to private car use.
- Respondents also raised a desire to see a completely electrified rail system and an extended rail and tram network.

What we heard



Climate resilience

We heard that:

- Responses to climate change for both mitigation and adaptation efforts, require better coordination across government.
- Climate change risks need to be considered for both new and existing infrastructure, in particular bushfire and flood risk.
- Land use planning needs to address the space required for climate adaptation, in particular blue and green infrastructure in our built areas.
- The State Government has a role to play in ensuring that there are clear and uniform reporting frameworks for assessing climate risk to give certainty for investment.



Digital connectivity

We heard that:

- Hard infrastructure (cables and masts) is seen as an enabler for economic growth and bridging regional/metropolitan and socio-economic divides.
- Digital literacy is a barrier to the adoption of digital solutions that have the potential to improve productivity.
- Government has a role to play in coordinating digital platforms that enable technologies, such as Internet of Things and digital twins, to enhance decision making and enable sharing of information between government entities and contractors.

Next steps

The information received through the public submissions to the Discussion Paper provided valuable background information for the development of the strategy.

The strategy will be presented to the Government of South Australia in late 2024/early 2025. The Strategy will be made available on the Infrastructure SA website.



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