



Advisor: Investment Assessment (Senior or Principal)- 12-Month Fixed term

Job title: Advisor: Investment Assessment (Senior or Principal)

Reports to: Director, Economics (Within Strategy Division)

Direct Reports: None

Location: Wellington preferred



About the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission, Te Waihangā

The work we do at Te Waihangā is critically important to Aotearoa. We have been tasked by Government to play a pivotal role in improving New Zealanders lives through better infrastructure and the services that result from infrastructure. Infrastructure touches every New Zealander in one way or another. It is our transport systems, electricity, water, and mobile networks. Te Waihangā wants to hear from all New Zealanders from all walks of life. To be a successful we need to recruit the best of the best from a diverse talent pool. We also play an important role in supporting the Crown in its relationships with Māori under the Treaty of Waitangi. We are unified by a spirit of service to our communities and guided by the core principles and values of the public service in our work.



Our Vision - Tā Mātou Whakakitenga

Infrastructure for a thriving New Zealand

Our values - Ō Mātou Uara

**Free thinking/
Whakaaro nui** -
We arrive at
creative yet
considered
solutions

**Courageous/
Māia** - We will
have honest
conversations
which reflect our
independence

**Trustworthy/
Pono** - You can
depend on us to
behave ethically
and impartially

**Empathetic/
Ngākau aroha**
- We are listening
and respectful of
different views

Purpose of the role - Te Kaupapa o te Tūranga

The Infrastructure Priorities Programme (IPP) provides a standardised process to assess infrastructure proposals at set points in the planning process culminating in a list of vetted problems, proposals, and projects available to decision makers and the public. The IPP will assess proposals from all sectors and regions. This assessment of Infrastructure Priorities aims to provide a ‘menu’ of potential high-quality proposals and will contribute to the National Infrastructure Plan.

The purpose of the Investment Assessment Advisor (IPP) role is to provide Te Waihanga with advice related to the merits of infrastructure investment proposals.

This role will be comprised of four main components:

- Assessment of the merits of infrastructure investment proposals against the Commission’s Assessment Framework,
- Lifting the capability and capacity of the sector through the delivery of training modules and targeted feedback to investment proponents, and
- Contribution to development of best practice guidance regarding investment in infrastructure.
- Contribution to research to improve knowledge of long-term infrastructure needs.

We encourage applicants from those with a background in economic evaluation of investments, investment proposal development or development of organisational investment plans.

We will appoint either at the Senior Advisor level as an individual contributor or Principal Advisor level as both a contributor and technical lead.

The role reports to the Director, Economics, and will be expected to collaborate with others throughout the organisation.

Our team - Mō te tīma

The Economics team is a small team within the broader Strategy division.

In addition to the IPP, the Economics team:

- Prepares research notes to lift the standard of evidence and analysis on infrastructure issues,
- Conducts analysis on long-term infrastructure needs, including the demand for and willingness to pay for infrastructure, and,
- Provides economic advice on a range of infrastructure related issues, as required.

We work closely with our peers in the Data Science and Analytics, Inquiries, and Infrastructure Strategy teams.

Key Accountabilities - Ngā Kawenga Takohanga Mātuatua

Key Accountability Areas:	Key accountabilities/expectations:
Rigorous assessment of infrastructure proposals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of infrastructure proposals against the Commission’s Assessment Framework, including the following components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic alignment with the Te Waihanga Infrastructure Strategy and other government strategies and agency plans. ○ Value for money, to ensure that we are getting the most for our infrastructure dollars. ○ Deliverability by the project’s proponents and the construction industry.

- Critically analyse, review, and test assumptions and calculations that are provided by project proponents.
- Preparation of assessment reports in a rigorous, objective, and evidence-based manner.
- When necessary, ability to draw on best practice guidance and research from other sources locally and internationally.
- At the Principal level provide technical leadership and guidance to the team in the assessment of infrastructure proposals.

Outcomes

- High-quality assessments of infrastructure proposals that are credible and authoritative.
- Assessment reports and other documents that are clear, concise, and easy to read.
- Supporting evidence and advice that is practical, relevant, and credible.
- Effective communication to internal and external audiences.

Lifting the capability and capacity of the sector

- Delivery of training modules on Te Waihanga’s Assessment Framework and other content intended to lift the quality of infrastructure proposals.
- Delivery of tailored feedback to proponents of specific infrastructure proposals.
- Identification of topic areas where there are opportunities to improve sector knowledge.
- At the Principal level develop, design and lead the delivery of training modules on Te Waihanga’s Assessment Framework.

Outcomes

- Advice is seen as high-quality, practical, relevant, and credible.
- Information presented in innovative ways for ease of interpretation and impact.
- Improved capability to produce high quality infrastructure proposals among staff at infrastructure agencies.

Robust guidance documents

- Assist the Commission in the identification of priority areas where guidance documents have the potential to lift the performance of the infrastructure sector.
- Translation of research and evidence gather into guidance documents for use in the planning stage and business case stages of infrastructure projects.
- Assess options and develop practical policy advice, linking back to evidence and theory.
- Communicate key insights in a clear and compelling manner.
- At the Principal level undertake a key role in identifying priority areas where guidance documents have the potential to lift the performance of the infrastructure sector.

Outcomes

- Evidence and advice that is seen as high-quality, practical, relevant, and credible.
- Insightful and well-communicated research.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information presented in innovative ways for ease of interpretation and impact.
Improved knowledge of infrastructure needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of literature reviews and evidence gathering, to identify and document the existing knowledge base. When necessary, undertake research and evidence-gathering on agreed topics where evidence gaps remain. Analysis of the drivers of long-term infrastructure needs, such as renewals, population growth, and natural hazards. Assessment of proposed and planned infrastructure investments against projected long-term needs. At the Principal level provide technical and strategic leadership in the completion of literature reviews, research and analysis to improve the knowledge base of infrastructure needs. <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes to a National Infrastructure Plan that is well-evidenced and robust. Promotion of robust and coordinated infrastructure decision-making by central and local government.
Communicate and engage with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write and present assessments, reports and research findings in plain language. Develop and contribute to the development of effective communications and engagement activities. Develop or contribute to the development of engagement plans to test evidence and advice with others. Participate in engagement activities, maintaining the impartiality and independence of the Commission. At the Principal level plays a key role in communicating and engaging with stakeholders <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement and communications are well planned, well-delivered and timely. External stakeholders view the Commission’s work as robust and its engagement as effective and valuable.
Operate effectively as part of a team and contribute to organisational culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work collaboratively with colleagues and others inside and outside the Commission. Demonstrate personal initiative and responsibility. Contribute to a positive organisational culture, underpinned by evidence, trust, and empathy. Seek innovative solutions and focus on continuous improvement. Contribute ideas and advice freely and frankly. Continuous communication of ideas, progress, and results. Work constructively to find an agreed organisational view. <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to Commission’s work and organisational performance are recognised and valued by others. Make a positive contribution to team culture by supporting colleagues and working with others in a productive way.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freely share information and contribute to greater institutional understanding of relevant issues. • Team outputs continually innovate and improve.
At the Principal level - support the Team Leader and mentor & coach staff	<p>Establish clear and effective communication and rapport with team members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for professional and personal growth through setting stretching yet realistic goals and planning relevant development activities. • Ensure that team members work is well planned, well directed and adequately resourced. • Encourage a two-way dialogue about progress and results. • Receive and provide high quality feedback. <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team members are performing and developing. • Recognised by others as bringing out the best in people and the team.
Te Tiriti o Waitangi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to understanding, recognising and acting upon the articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi; Kāwanatanga, Rangatiratanga, Oritetanga.
Health, Safety & Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take all practical steps to ensure your own health and safety and the safety of others in the workplace.

Key Relationships - Ngā Hononga Mātuatua

- Agency stakeholders
- Central and local government infrastructure agencies
- Infrastructure project proponents
- Infrastructure operators

Qualifications - Ngā Tohu

- *Essential* - tertiary qualification in economics, or equivalent knowledge, skills and experience gained in the workforce, and a commitment to ongoing professional development.
- *Desired* - post-graduate qualification in economics, preferably with a specialisation relevant to infrastructure, such as urban economics, trade economics, or transport economics.

Skills and Experience - Ngā Pūkenga me te Wheako

At the Senior Level:

- Previous experience in one of the following:
 - Economic evaluation of investment proposals, policies, or interventions, for instance in research or project appraisal contexts,
OR
 - Investment proposal development, for instance in economic appraisal or business case development,
OR
 - Development of organisational investment plans, such as long-term plans, investment strategies, or asset management plans,
OR

- Other infrastructure project planning and appraisal experience.
- Strong analytical skills, ideally including familiarity with economic appraisal techniques, such as cost benefit analysis.
- Professional curiosity and a demonstrated interest in improving New Zealand’s infrastructure.
- Strong written communication skills.
- The ability to communicate evidence and insight to external and internal audiences in a clear and concise manner.
- Willingness to engage with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Ability to work constructively and collaboratively within the team, across the organisation, and with our partner agencies.
- Commitment to upholding high standards, including meeting commitments, improving outcomes for the Commission, and identifying and responding to new and emerging strategic issues impacting on the operating environment.

At the Principal Level:

- Previous experience in one of the following:
 - Evaluation of the economic impacts of infrastructure, for instance in research or project appraisal contexts,
OR
 - Infrastructure proposal development, for instance in economic appraisal or business case development,
OR
 - Development of organisational infrastructure investment plans, such as long-term plans or asset management plans,
- Strong analytical skills, including experience applying economic appraisal techniques, such as cost benefit analysis.
- An understanding of New Zealand’s investment management system and Better Business Case guidance.
- Professional curiosity and a demonstrated interest in improving New Zealand’s infrastructure.
- Strong written communication skills and experience preparing reports and executive documentation.
- The ability to communicate evidence and insight to external and internal audiences in a clear and concise manner.
- Thinks strategically, seeing issues through a range of perspectives and recognises the broader implications and connections between issues
- Experience with empirical research or quantitative analysis.
- Experience influencing cross-cutting policy discussions.
- Strong relationship management skills with the ability to engage with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Ability to work constructively and collaboratively within the team, across the organisation, and with our partner agencies.
- Ability to mentor and coach staff, providing opportunities for professional growth.
- Commitment to upholding high standards, including meeting commitments, improving outcomes for the Commission, and identifying and responding to new and emerging strategic issues impacting on the operating environment.

Knowledge – Mātauranga

- Knowledge of business case best practices and the core components of strong investment proposals.
- An understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Crown’s responsibility to act as a good partner and a willingness to engage with Te Ao Māori perspectives and frameworks.