

3rd December 2025

Press Release: NCPC Welcomes Publication of Accelerating Infrastructure Report and Action Plan

Today (December 3rd 2025), the Government published the [Accelerating Infrastructure Report and Action Plan](#).

This Action Plan represents a concerted attempt to address persistent delays and capacity constraints in Ireland's infrastructure delivery system. It proposes to fast-track planning and approvals for major projects, including exemptions from planning procedures for large-scale extensions of critical infrastructure. It proposes changes in planning processes and identifies reforms to the extant process for Judicial Reviews intended to reduce delays and legal bottlenecks. It also builds on the [Modern Methods of Construction Action Plan \(June 2025\)](#), signalling a broader push to adopt more efficient construction technologies. In total, the Plan sets out 30 actions.

Welcoming the publication of the Action Plan, NCPC Chair Dr. Frances Ruane said:

"As previously highlighted by the Council, Ireland must accelerate the provision of infrastructure if we are to remain competitive, increase economy-wide productivity, and provide homes for our growing population. This Action Plan acknowledges openly the scale of the delivery challenges that Ireland is facing and puts forward concrete measures to reduce delays and improve coordination in the delivery of infrastructure on a whole-of-Government basis. This is to be welcomed."

The National Competitiveness and Productivity Council (NCPC) considers infrastructure to be one of the core drivers of competitiveness and productivity, and in its most recent annual [Competitiveness Challenge report](#) it once again identified Ireland's infrastructure deficit as a key weakness and a persistent drag on competitiveness. The Council therefore welcomes publication of the **Accelerating Infrastructure Report and Action Plan**, noting that many of the issues it addresses (including regulatory complexity and delays in approval processes) have been highlighted in successive Council reports. The Council is pleased to see the close alignment between elements in this Plan and the recently published [Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity](#), particularly in areas such as reform of planning and legal processes and regulatory simplification.

Dr. Ruane added:

"Many of the issues identified in the Action Plan have been raised by the Council in successive reports over the past five years and are recognised as such. As always, however, the real value of this new Action Plan will depend on whether the proposed reforms fully address the underlying difficulties within the system so that the sustained follow-through of actions will translate rapidly into measurable improvements in delivery. There is real benefit in the Report confronting these systemic issues head-on. "

The Council emphasises the importance of a coordinated, whole-of-Government approach to resolving the significant gaps in critical infrastructure that Ireland faces, given the implications for both societal well-being and Ireland's international competitiveness. It urges a rapid and focused approach to implementing the full suite of 30 actions, and it looks forward to further detail on the specifics of how major reform actions to be implemented. The Council recognises that the Plan's ultimate impact will depend on its ability to provide effective and sustained delivery of our national infrastructure.

Note for Editors:

The National Competitiveness and Productivity Council (NCPC) reports to the Taoiseach and the Government, through the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, on key competitiveness and productivity challenges facing the Irish economy and offers recommendations on policy actions required to address these challenges.

Following the European Council recommendation in September 2016 and subsequent Government decision, the NCPC was designated as Ireland's National Productivity Board, tasked with analysing developments and policies in the areas of productivity and competitiveness.

Since 1997, in accordance with the NCPC's Terms of Reference, the Council has published its flagship policy report Ireland's Competitiveness Challenge. The work of the National Competitiveness and Productivity Council is underpinned by research and analysis undertaken by the Enterprise Strategy, Competitiveness and Evaluation Division of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

The members of the Council are:

- Dr. Frances Ruane Chair, National Competitiveness and Productivity Council
- Dr. Laura Bambrick, Head of Social Policy & Employment Affairs, ICTU
- Edel Clancy, Group Director of Corporate Affairs, Musgrave Group
- Ciaran Conlon, Director of Public Policy, Microsoft, Ireland
- Dr. Luiz de Mello, Director of Policy Studies, Economics Department, OECD
- Maeve Dineen, Chair of Ireland's Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman
- Brian McHugh, Chairperson, Competition and Consumer Protection Commission

- Gary Tobin, Assistant Secretary, Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment
- Michael Lohan, Chief Executive, IDA Ireland
- Liam Madden, Independent Consultant, Semiconductor Industry
- Neil McDonnell, Chief Executive, ISME
- Bernadette McGahon, Director of Innovation Services, Industry Research & Development Group
- Danny McCoy, Chief Executive, IBEC
- Michael Taft, Research Officer, SIPTU
- Jennifer Melia, Chief Executive Officer, Enterprise Ireland
- Denise Sidhu, Director, Kernel Capital
- Dr. Christian Ketels, Lead Economist of the Competitiveness Unit, World Bank
- Ed Brophy, EU Strategy & Head of Public Policy, Amazon, Ireland
- Dr. Alan Barrett, Research Professor, Economic and Social Research Institute

Representatives from the Departments of An Taoiseach; Foreign Affairs and Trade; Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Climate, Energy and the Environment; Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science; Social Protection; Finance; Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Justice; Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation; Children, Disability, and Equality, and Transport attend Council meetings in an advisory capacity.