

Case Study:

Australia and New Zealand Infrastructure Pipeline (ANZIP)

Type: Website

Organisation(s): Australian and New Zealand Governments, Infrastructure Partnerships Australia

Tags: open data, infrastructure, website



ANZIP AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
INFRASTRUCTURE PIPELINE



The [Australia & New Zealand Infrastructure Pipeline \(ANZIP\)](#) provides a forward view of public infrastructure activity across Australia and New Zealand.

ANZIP informs industry of the key infrastructure opportunities available, where these are located, and when they come to market. It does this by tracking greenfield and brownfield transactions through from when they are proposed, until they reach contractual and financial close.

The purpose of this portal is primarily to provide certainty of future public infrastructure activity to investors, constructors, governments and other agencies. This is intended to encourage further private sector investment in the region.

Background

The Australia & New Zealand Infrastructure Pipeline (ANZIP) is a joint initiative between the Australian and New Zealand Governments, hosted by [Infrastructure Partnerships Australia](#). Infrastructure Partnerships Australia is an independent infrastructure intelligence unit, which acts as a connection point between the government and business sectors.

ANZIP provides a detailed picture of upcoming greenfield and brownfield infrastructure investment, or major construction opportunities, across the two countries. Its creation signals a joint commitment to building a more integrated

infrastructure market across the two countries, as echoed in a [joint media release by the Australian Treasurer and New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister](#) in 2016.

The portal provides improved transparency about what infrastructure activity will occur, and where it will occur, as well as a likely or confirmed timeline for each project. This provides infrastructure investors, contractors and jurisdictions with a clear picture of likely and confirmed infrastructure activity, which should allow the market to prepare the financial and human resources needed.

ANZIP is a central portal that sources its information from government planning documents, budgets and other resources, providing a dynamic and holistic view of the infrastructure pipeline. It includes projects run by government agencies, local authorities, state-owned enterprises and publicly-listed companies. However, it only includes major infrastructure activity above the following thresholds:

Australia

Construction projects: > AUD\$300m

Investable greenfield & brownfield: > AUD\$100m

New Zealand

All greenfield and brownfield projects and divestments: > NZD \$100 million

Important considerations

Content and quality

The portal currently displays the geographic location of 296 infrastructure projects across the two countries, with 240 in Australia and 56 in New Zealand. Users can zoom in to any area of interest and identify each individual project by name. Clicking on the name of a project takes the user to a new webpage that contains detailed narrative and external links for that particular project. As an example, the [Sydney Football Stadium](#) page has links to numerous media releases, the final business case, procurement details and project history, as well as the expected narrative on the development itself.

The interactive map can be filtered by any combination of the following parameters:

- Type: greenfield or brownfield;
- Status: six choices from prospective pipeline through to recently closed;
- Value: from \$100m to > \$7bn;
- Jurisdiction: which includes New Zealand as a whole, and the 8 Australian jurisdictions; and
- Sector: energy, social infrastructure, road, rail, other transport, water & sewerage, and other.

In addition to the main map, the portal allows users to play with interactive graphs of the projects by jurisdiction or by sector, based on the same parameters as listed above. The combination of map and graph functions helps to build a more comprehensive picture of upcoming investments.

Furthermore, there are regular updates that include information on new additions to the website, changes to existing projects, and removals.

User experience and usage data

Usability of the ANZIP portal is straightforward in terms of the search and filter features available. However, the portal contains minimal background information on the project and its data sources, which arguably limits the users' understanding of the data.

No usage data is available, so it is not clear which projects and graphs are most popular, or how users have used the data from the website.

Data can be downloaded in PDF format only. The PDF downloads are not in tabular format, but instead list each individual project alongside a picture of the project and its key details. This means that there is limited scope for users to download and combine the data with other datasets, or use the data in ways beyond those offered by the website. This is a fairly significant limitation to the user experience.

Despite these limitations, the website itself is easy to navigate and presents clear and concise data in an innovative and creative way.

Blockers and challenges

A key challenge for ANZIP was likely collating and standardising data sourced from two separate countries. Both nations separately have ambitious infrastructure building programs, so bringing these together with equal prominence and strategic alignment was likely challenging. To mitigate any political difficulties arising, an independent third party (Infrastructure Partnerships Australia) was brought in to host and maintain the portal.

The two countries have different currencies (AUD and NZD) but present all projects in Australian dollars. This could be problematic given that exchange rates fluctuate daily. Given the large sums of money involved in the projects, small changes in the exchange rate could have significant monetary impacts when converting the projects from NZD to AUD. It is not clear whether the data are updated for exchange rate movements over time, but it would be important to consider this periodically to ensure full transparency and accuracy of the data disclosed.

What can Greater Manchester take from this now?

- Open data about key infrastructure projects from prospective pipeline to closure could provide potential private sector bodies with the information needed for them to invest in our local economy.
- The ANZIP project sets a precedent for international data sharing of this kind. Greater Manchester could learn from this and consider joining up with regions beyond the ten local authorities. For example, a joined up 'Northern Infrastructure Pipeline' could bring attention to the North as a whole as a key area of interest for investors.
- The ANZIP website is very streamlined and simple, which means the key information is easily accessible and understandable. It is important to remember that data should only be made open where it is thought to have a clear and obvious use.
- Political buy-in from both the Australian and New Zealand governments was key in the creation of the ANZIP portal. If Manchester were to engage in a project that joins up with external regions, it would be essential to ensure adequate buy-in and political support is obtained from both/all regions.
- The ANZIP portal is hosted and maintained by an independent third party. Even where countries/regions are politically aligned, they will maintain a degree of self-interest. If Greater Manchester were to consider creating or participating in a wider regional open data project of this kind, it might therefore be advisable to involve independent third parties in the process.
- The ANZIP portal only makes data available in PDF format, which limits the user experience. To avoid this problem, Greater Manchester could ensure that its open data is available for download in a wider range of formats (such as PDF, CSV and Shapefiles).

Find out more:

[Infrastructure Pipeline website](#)

[Australian Infrastructure Plan](#)

[New Zealand Upgrade Programme](#)