

15 November 2021

CBE Responds to the Draft National Infrastructure Plan 2050

On 10 August 2021, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) published the draft National Infrastructure Plan (NIP) 2050 for public comment. A month later, the deadline for comment was extended to 01 October 2021. The NIP 2050 is a document that recognises that the economic and social development of South Africa will depend on an increase in investment in, and development and maintenance of, the infrastructure of crucial sectors. The NIP's focus is on the development of bulk network infrastructure, institutional skills and capacity. Government's need to respond to Covid-19 was just the impetus NIP required, and the CBE rose to the occasion to coordinate the Built Environment sector's contribution to the NIP, given that transformation and human resource development are enshrined in the CBE's mandate.

The CBE convened a virtual NIP 2050 Stakeholder Engagement on 10 September 2021. Emanating from the said engagement, a Technical Task Team was established to consolidate all relevant input received. On 01 October 2021, the consolidated comments were submitted to the NIP 2050 Team and DPWI. Perhaps the most notable oversight in the draft NIP is that of transformation, prompting the Technical Task Team to recommend its inclusion as a stand-alone Chapter 3 in the NIP. In a parallel development, the Technical Task Team is continuing with its work to address the Transformation Concept document that will provide the narrative for the inclusion of the proposed Chapter 3: Transformation in the NIP 2050.