

## National Infrastructure Unit

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**From:** Gordon Hassett [gordon.hassett@kludup.co.nz]  
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**To:** National Infrastructure Unit  
**Subject:** Submission on "Towards the First National Infrastructure Plan"

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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1. Congratulations on a significant beginning
2. As regards Item 38: The guidelines for capital investments administered by the Ministry of Health are the "state of the art" in NZ. It would greatly improve decision-making if these were the standard required by others, e.g. Universities, Police, Local Government. It should also be a focus to provide a rational process (outside the political) for disposal of non-productive assets, e.g. St Heliers Police Station houses 1 community constable, who is not there most of the time, in a \$1m property and no more than 1km away are 70+ constables in the new Glen Innes Station.
3. Items 38 and 39: Skills of the private sector and innovation in design, construction and management will be of greater benefit when the public sector learn how to specify what they require in terms of outcomes rather than outputs. Significant work was done in this regard by NSW Rail, who learnt that PPP's were just another form of construction project tender if the technical design was advanced too far – to be effective they needed to provide no more than a performance specification and allow consortia to bring their design innovation to the solution, rather than providing concept or even developed designs, which proscribe innovation. This obviously requires a more sophisticated evaluation process.
4. Item 75: Without expert assistance and at least the possibility (threat?) of audits, the quality of the view that government gets of capital intentions will be of very uneven quality, because of differing ability and interpretations and the incentives that exist to "game" the reporting
5. Item 288: Viewing Corrections in isolation from the remainder of the greater justice system creates a distortion of the decisions that need to be made, as well as the opportunities, e.g. considering the need for cells in Auckland whilst ignoring the 64 unused cells at Papakura Police Station only perpetuates the waste; transportation of the detained between courts, police stations and prisons is a major driver of operating costs in these organisations.

Regards,

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