

# Infrastructure dithering costs Queensland \$1m a day in economic benefits

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GOVERNMENT inaction and squabbling over crucial infrastructure is robbing the Queensland economy of almost \$1 million every day, research reveals.

The Infrastructure Association of Queensland has calculated the cost as the failure of the state and federal governments to move on key reforms and priority initiatives identified in the Australian Infrastructure Plan in February.

The peak industry body puts the “lost opportunity” cost at \$900,000 a day – and warns it could rise to \$4.5 million a day by 2021, and \$9 million a day within a decade. Tens of thousands of potential jobs are at stake.

Infrastructure Association of Queensland chief Steve Abson says the public won’t stand by while huge economic and social benefits are squandered.



“Queenslanders won’t stand by and see the huge economic and social benefits on offer frittered away by politicking and policy inertia,” IAQ chief executive Steve Abson said.

Based on modelling developed by PricewaterhouseCoopers to gauge the extra economic lift expected from implementing the plan, IAQ has estimated the price to Queensland of not acting at \$326 million this year, \$1.6 billion in 2021 and \$3.26 billion in 2026.

The plan set out 78 recommendations for reforms to the energy, telecommunications, transport and water sectors to boost productivity across the country over the next 15 years and beyond.

“Despite the national importance of this plan, nine months on, the Queensland infrastructure sector awaits the well-overdue response promised by the Turnbull Government,” Mr Abson said.