

THANK YOU, CHAIR, FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE EVIDENCE TO THE COMMITTEE. MY TEAM AND I STAND READY TO ANSWER THE COMMITTEE'S QUESTIONS AS FULLY AS WE CAN, AND AS SOON AS WE CAN. IF DATA ISN'T IMMEDIATELY TO HAND

THERE ARE THREE THINGS I'D LIKE TO COVER OFF IN THIS BRIEF OPENING STATEMENT. TWO ARE PROCEDURAL; THE THIRD IS MORE SUBSTANTIVE.

FIRST, A FEATURE OF THE RECENT MAY BUDGET, FOLLOWING THE BUDGET WANDERED DOWN IN OCTOBER 2022, IS THAT MEASURES RELEVANT TO THE DEPARTMENT - CONTAINED IN THE PORTFOLIO BUDGET STATEMENT - OFTEN NEED TO BE READ, FOR COMPLETENESS'S SAKE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PORTFOLIO ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES STATEMENTS WHEN IT COMES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR. MY TEAM WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST THE CTEE ON THIS AS REQ.

SECOND, SENATOR CANAVAN WROTE TO ME LAST TUESDAY AFTERNOON (17 MAY) REQUESTING A RANGE OF INFORMATION IN RELATION TO THE BUDGET.

WE HAVE ENDEAVOURED TO PROVIDE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS WE CAN AHEAD OF TODAY'S HEARINGS. I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ~~WORK~~ EFFORT OF MY STAFF, MANY OF WHOM WORKED THRU THE WEEKEND, TO MAKE THAT POSSIBLE.

MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT ALL RELEVANT DATA HAS ^{Now} BEEN TABLED ELECTRONICALLY + 5 x HAND COPIES TABLED w THE SECRETARIAT THIS MORNING.

WE HAVE NOT PROVIDED

- data relevant to the Murray Darling Basin Plan + National Water Grid (MOE last July)

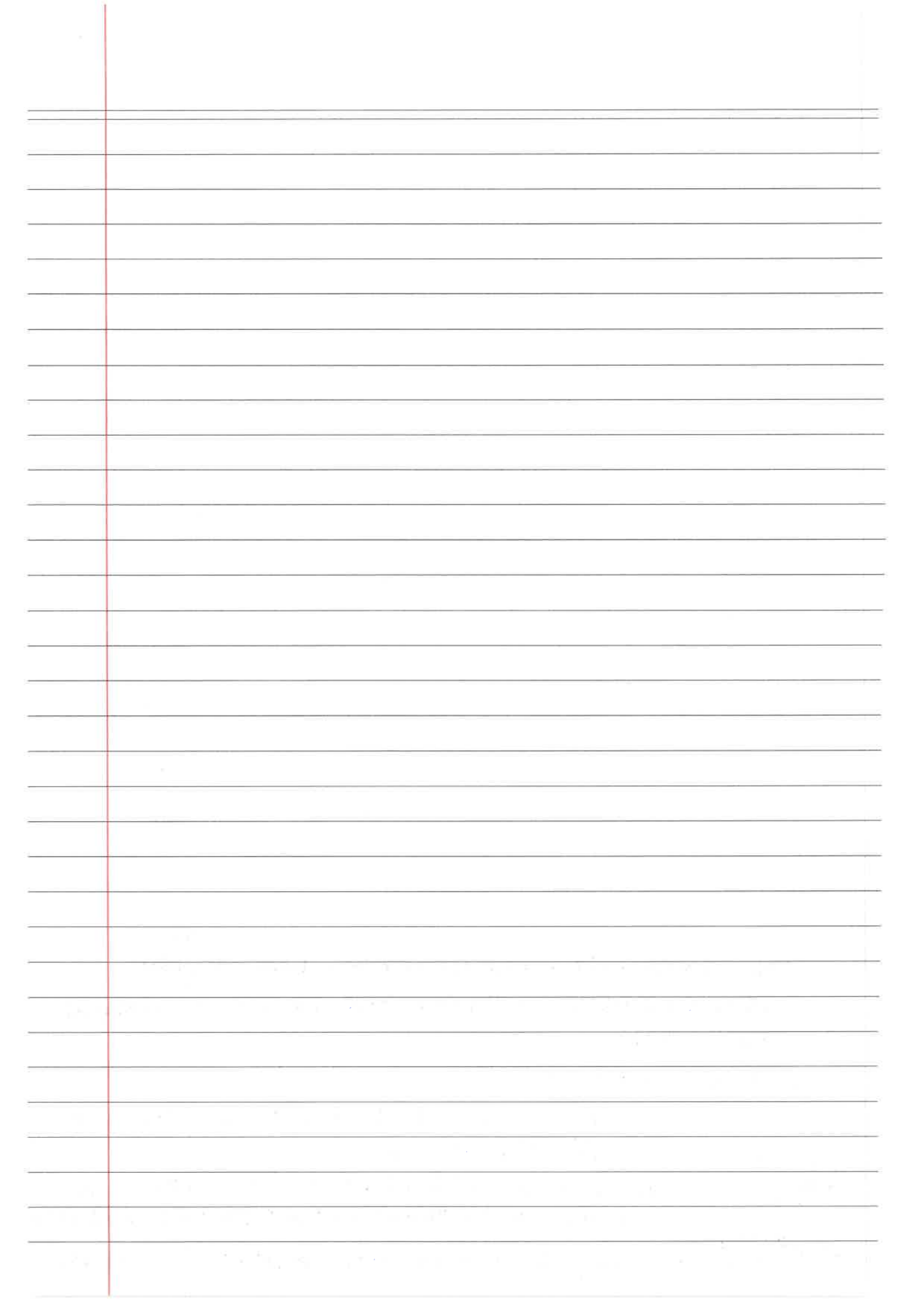
- all data changes for individual projects under questions 2 + 3

- but you have the "before" and "after" from Oct 22 + this Budget

- electorate data, which we do not report. LGA / postcode inc where pon

Life on train
→ BC
Env + Comm

Question 10



THIRD, AS THE CTTEE KNOWS, A CENTRAL PLANK OF THE BUDGET INsofar AS IT RELATES TO THE INF PORTFOLIO IS THE INDEPENDENT STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOV'T INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PIPELINE.

THIS REVIEW WAS FORESHADOWED BY FIRST MINISTERS AT NATIONAL CABINET ON 28 APRIL, AT WHICH STATES + TERRITORIES COMMITTED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO:

"WORK w THE CWEALTH TO SUPPORT A MORE JUSTAINABLE INF PIPELINE... THAT PROVIDES CERTAINTY TO THE MARKET + DELIVERS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR GROWING COMMUNITIES"

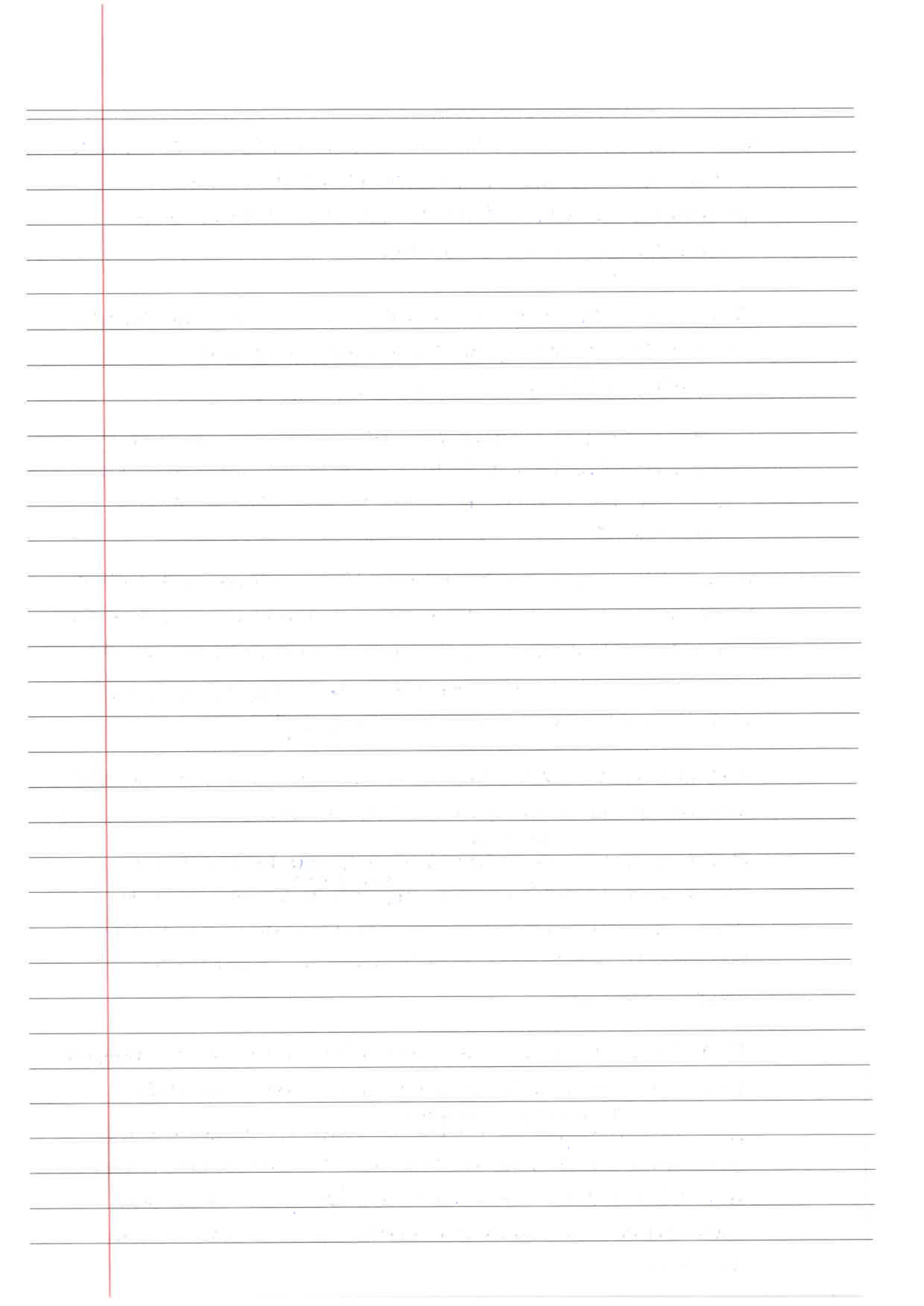
IN ANNOUNCING THE REVIEW AS PART OF THE BUDGET, THE MINISTER NOTED THE PROLIFERATION OF PROJECTS CONTAINED wI THE PIPELINE - UP FROM 150 TO ALMOST 800 - AND COMMENTED THAT, IN HER VIEW + THAT OF THE GOVT, "PROJECTS WERE LEFT w/o ADEQUATE FUNDING, RESOURCE OR GENUINE COMMITMENT"

IMPORTANTLY, THE GOVT REAFFIRMED ITS COMMITMENT TO MAINTAIN THE IIP AT AT LEAST \$120bn OVER 10 YEARS

ANNOUNCED
IN THE LIGHT OF THE REVIEW, THE GOVT ~~WAS~~ DECIDED IN THE BUDGET THAT NO NEW PROJECTS OR ^{EMERGING PROJECT} COST PRESSURES WOULD BE CONSIDERED UNTIL THE 2023 | 24 MYEFO - AT WHICH POINT THE REVIEW'S RECS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO INFORM GOVT DECISION-MAKING.

NO PROJECTS WITHIN THE IIP HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OR DEFERRED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVT SINCE THE CTTEE'S LAST MEETINGS.

with a handful of exceptions
IT FOLLOWS THAT THE ONLY MATERIAL CHANGES TO IIP PROJECT INFORMATION SINCE THAT PROVIDED FOLLOWING THE OCTOBER BUDGET ARE WHERE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, OR WHERE STATES HAVE UPDATED THEIR EXPENDITURE REPORTS IN LINE WITH ACTUAL DELIVERY.



LET ME NOW TURN TO THE INDEPENDENT STRATEGIC REVIEW ITSELF. (3)

I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW A CLEAR DISTINCTION, FROM THE OUTSET, BETWEEN THE ROLE OF THE REVIEWERS - ^{which is to} PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS - AND THAT OF GOVERNMENT. THE REVIEWERS WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS, MINISTERS WILL MAKE DECISIONS.

AND THE COMMONWEALTH GOVT HAS ALREADY MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE REVIEW WILL NOT FOCUS ON PROJECTS WHICH ARE:

- EITHER AUST GOVT ELECTRON COMMITMENT
- OR ALREADY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

WITH THAT GUIDANCE, MY DEPT WILL PROVIDE THE REVIEWERS WITH ALL RELEVANT IIP DATA. FOR SUB-PROGRAMS, THE FOCUS WILL BE ON IMPROVED GOVERNANCE, NOT LINE BY LINE

WE ARE THIS MORNING TABLING THE TORs FOR THE INDEPENDENT STRATEGIC REVIEW.

AS YOU KNOW, THE ~~THE~~ REVIEW WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY THREE EMINENT AUSTRALIANS - FORMER PUBLIC SERVANTS & PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS ~~at~~ AUSTRALIA WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SERVED GOVTS ~~a/c~~ THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM.

THE REVIEW WILL TAKE 90 DAYS, ~~COMMENCING ON 4 MAY~~ + HAS ALREADY COMMENCED

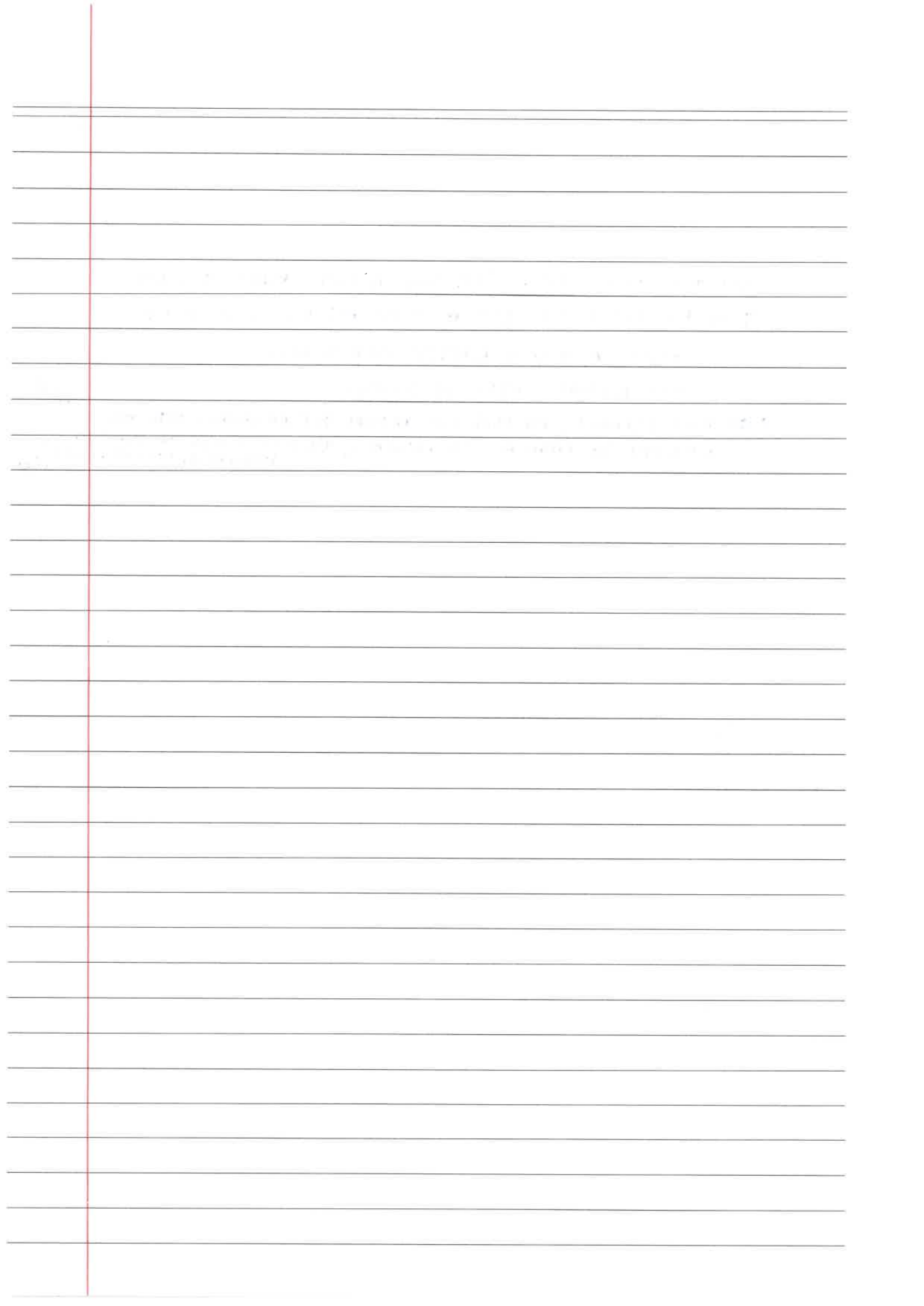
IT WILL BE SUPPORTED BY A TEAM IN MY DEPT.

THE TIMELINE IS TIGHT, BUT WE ARE DETERMINED TO MINIMISE ANY UNCERTAINTY FOR GOVTS, SUPPLIERS & COMMUNITIES WHILE IT IS UNDER WAY.

YOU WILL NOTE THAT THE TOR REQUIRES THE REVIEWERS TO GIVE WEIGHT TO THE IMPACT OF THEIR RECOMMENDED ACTIONS ON INDUSTRY + REMOTE | REGIONAL AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES.

THE TORs ALSO REFER TO A DRAFT INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY STATEMENT. THE DRAFT HAS BEEN SHARED WITH THE REVIEWERS AND WILL, I UNDERSTAND, BE MADE PUBLIC IN DUE COURSE

THE STATEMENT IS INTENDED TO ENSURE THAT FUTURE INVESTMENT DECISIONS UNDER THE IIP HAVE GENUINE STRATEGIC MERIT + ARE FOCUSED ON PROJECTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.



THAT MEANS FOCUSING ON

- PRODUCTIVITY : reducing travel times
enabling regional industries to grow
strengthening + improving the eff. of supply chain
- SUSTAINABILITY: reducing carbon emissions, inc embedded carbon
integrating tp + land use to reduce the need for travel
strengthening the resilience of assets + networks
- LIVEABILITY: ensuring that our communities + the travelling public remain safe
enabling communities to be connected to services + to each other
providing fair access to people experiencing disadvantage

THE AIM OF THE INDEPENDENT STRATEGIC REVIEW OVER THE MEDIUM + LONG TERM IS TO HELP REORIENTATE THE COUNTRY'S INVESTMENT TO MAKE SURE THESE OBJECTIVES ARE PROPERLY SERVED

ONCE THE REVIEW IS COMPLETE + GOVT HAS TAKEN DECISIONS, WE WILL BE HAPPY TO MAKE OURSELVES AVAILABLE TO ANSWER ANY EVEN ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE.

