



Senate Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2024–25
Monday, 4 November 2024
Daily summary

The committee met from 9:00am until 10:49pm.

The committee called the following departments and agencies:

- The committee released the National Transport Commission from the hearing.

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts:
Corporate matters:

- Staff and budget matters;
- Department's Annual Report;
- Ministerial Code of Conduct;
- APS Census results; and
- State and territory Funding Agreements.

Outcome 1:

- Queensland infrastructure updates;
 - Avoca Drive;
 - Bruce Highway;
 - Forward estimates for the Bruce Highway funding;
 - Gladstone Port access road extension;
 - Passenger rail between Brisbane and Toowoomba;
 - New England Highway (Yarraman - Toowoomba), Borneo Barracks (Cabarlah), construction of turning lanes;
 - Brisbane Olympic Games venue and transport project update; and
 - Cunningham Highway upgrade.
- Federal Funding Agreement with states and territories
 - Advice to minister regarding cost blowouts;
 - Funding for the Black Spot Program;
 - Review of funding to Government Business Enterprises;
 - Infrastructure investment program review; and
 - Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan.
- Western Australia infrastructure updates
 - Garden Island Highway;
 - METRONET;
 - Reid Highway Interchange - West Swan Road;
 - Nicholson Road, Garden Street and Yale Road Grade Separation; and
 - Leach Highway and Welshpool Road Interchange.
- Tasmanian infrastructure program updates
 - Hobart Transit Centre.

- Victoria infrastructure program updates
 - Canterbury Road Upgrade;
 - Maroondah Highway Upgrade;
 - Shepparton Line Upgrade;
 - Shepparton Alternative Freight Route Enhancement Package;
 - Toorong Road Level Crossing Removal Report; and
 - Glenferrie Road Level Crossing Removal.
- New South Wales infrastructure program updates
- Inland Rail
 - Potential extension of Inland Rail to Gladstone; and
 - Narromine to Narrabri land acquisition.
- Road maintenance funding;
- High Speed Rail Business Case update; and
- Regional Railway Crossing Safety Program.

Outcome 2:

- DFAT advice to the Minister for Infrastructure;
- Assistance provided to Rex prior to and during its voluntary administration;
- Qatar Airways bilateral agreement and related briefings;
- Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme;
- Conflict of interest declarations related to Slot Management at Sydney Airport;
- New Vehicle Efficiency Standard; and
- Train Visibility and Level Crossing Code of Practice.

Outcome 3:

- Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct;
- The Thriving Suburbs Program;
- Modern slavery reporting;
- Townsville Concert Hall project;
- Reef HQ Aquarium rebuild;
- Precincts and Partnerships Programs;
- Office of Northern Australia meetings with the Minister;
- Interdepartmental Committee on Northern Australia (IDC);
- Progress report of Australian Government Action in Northern Australia;
- Northern Australia Indigenous Reference Group;
- White Paper on Developing Northern Australia;
- Northern Australia Development program and its relationship with the office of Northern Australia;
- Measuring Infrastructure Outcomes;
- Growing Regions Program; and
- Investing in Our Communities Program.

Outcome 4:

- Governance arrangements for Norfolk Island including the Norfolk Island Governance Committee and future governance models;
- Sustainable shipping between Norfolk Island and the mainland; and
- Air freight subsidy for Norfolk Island.

Airservices Australia

- Noise Metrics used for Brisbane Airport flightpaths;
- Brisbane Airport Noise Action Plan;
- Trax Report;
- Declaration of Airservices Australia Executive team interests;
- Air Traffic Controller staffing;
- Organisational structure;
- Airservices' flight delay statistics; and
- Flight cancellations in northern Australia.

Western Sydney Airport

- Projected economic benefits of Western Sydney Airport to the greater Western Sydney region; and
- Agreements with airlines to commence operations to Western Sydney Airport.

Civil Aviation Safety Authority

- Declaration of interests made by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority Executive team and board members;
- Risk of myocarditis to pilots and assessment of vaccine injury; and
- Regulation of crop spraying pilots.

Australian Rail Track Corporation and Inland Rail Pty Ltd

- Queensland Inland Rail project updates;
- Proposed extension of the Inland Rail to Gladstone;
- Inland Rail Narrabri to North Star project update;
- Independent review of the Inland Rail; and
- Proposal for a direct tunnel between Gowrie and the Port of Brisbane as part of the Inland Rail.

Infrastructure Australia

- Provision of information for the next Federal Budget;
- Alignments of priorities between the state and federal governments;
- Melbourne Suburban Rail Loop costing and deliverability; and
- National Trunk Rail proposal for Inland Rail;

Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility

- Update on financial statements, investment and agency staffing; and
- Indigenous Engagement Strategy.

National Intermodal Corporation

- Planning approvals and land acquisition for intermodal projects;
- Consultation with the Victorian Government on Camerons Lane Interchange; and
- Funding allocation for intermodal projects.

That concludes the Committee's examination of the Department and agencies of the Infrastructure portfolio, the committee will next meet at 9.00am on Tuesday, 5 November in Committee Room 2R1, for the examination of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio.