

Environment and Communications
Answers to questions on notice
Agriculture, Water and the Environment Portfolio

Question No: 35
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Division/Agency: Australian Antarctic Division (AAD)
Topic: Davis Aerodrome project - allocated funding
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Question Date: 22 March 2021
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Mr Ellis, is \$5 billion in the estimate of what this is going to cost the Australian taxpayer?

Mr Ellis: We don't have a completed estimate of the cost of the project at this stage. We are working on one to come back to government next year, to seek approval for the runway work to proceed.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Mr Metcalfe, have you heard the figure of \$5 billion?

Mr Metcalfe: Not until just now. That's the only time I've heard it.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: It's an extraordinary amount of money, isn't it?

Mr Metcalfe: Five billion is a very large amount of money.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Mr Ellis, when you say 'next year', are you talking about the next financial year? Is there going to be money allocated in this year's budget?

Mr Ellis: The intent is that this project will continue to work through a detailed business case and a comprehensive environmental assessment. That will come back to government next year for the 2022-23 budget.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What is allocated in the budget for this next financial year in relation to this?

Mr Ellis: The government has allocated \$58.8 million for this next phase of the analysis of the project, and that covers us through until delivery to the government in mid-2022.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: In which case, then, there'll be more money allocated for the project itself?

Mr Ellis: If the project is approved and if it meets the environmental assessment.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is this \$58.8 million the total cost or what has been allocated prior? What's the total amount of money spent thus far?

Mr Ellis: The total amount allocated for this project is \$76.6 million. I will pass over to my colleague Mr Bryson to give a more detailed financial breakdown of what needs to be spent.

CHAIR: Are you happy to receive that on notice?

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I am happy to receive that on notice.

Answer:

1. The total funding allocated for the Davis Aerodrome Project's planning phase is \$76.6 million. The project is funded until 30 June 2022. Of the total funding:

- \$28.3 million was expended in the period 2016-2017 to 2019-2020
- \$28.2 million has been allocated for the Financial year 2020-2021
- \$20.1 million has been allocated for the Financial Year 2021-2022.