

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates
31 May – 1 June 2017

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Major Projects Approval Agency

REFERENCE: Questions on Notice (Hansard, 1 June 2017, page 69-70)

QUESTION No.: BI-39

Senator KIM CARR: I do. I will come back to the measurement agency in a minute, but while you are at the table, Mr Lawson: the Major Projects Approval Agency is within the department of industry but has a whole-of-government remit—did I understand you correctly?

Mr Lawson: Yes.

Senator KIM CARR: What is the allocation of funding for it?

Mr Lawson: I will see if my colleague has that. As we explained before, it is a relatively small organisation with approximately half-a-dozen people. Their job is to facilitate other people working together.

Senator KIM CARR: So can you give me the funding profile?

Mr Power: If you could give me a minute, I will see if I can find it.

Senator KIM CARR: I am looking for the forward estimates funding profile, while you are there.

Mr Lawson: It probably will not show up in forward estimates, because it is internal to the department.

Senator KIM CARR: Sure. There will be a budget somewhere, buried away. I am sure you will be able to dig that out for six people. What sort of projects do you facilitate?

Mr Power: There are currently around 30 projects that the agency is looking at. There are a range of projects in all types of industries, some relating to mining, some to aquaculture. We deal with all sorts of projects.

Senator KIM CARR: What is the size of the projects?

Mr Power: Again, they range. We have dealt typically with quite large projects—over \$50 million—but in those we have resources. We flexibly apply them to a bunch of projects come to the agency.

Senator KIM CARR: Could you do manufacturing?

Mr Power: I do not believe there are currently manufacturing projects on there that require significant intervention on the approvals side. I can tell you that the agency has recently developed an online tool so that projects can come and look at, for example, the read through pathway. So there may be a bunch of projects that are able to use that without engaging all of the services.

Senator KIM CARR: Can you give me on notice a breakdown of those projects year on year, given that time is short for us today.

Mr Power: I can give you some further examples of projects.

Senator KIM CARR: Take it on notice. I want the full list, if I can, rather than just a couple of examples, and the size of the projects and the location.

Mr Power: Happy to take it on notice.

ANSWER

- On 11 May 2017, the Government consolidated the functions of the department’s Major Projects Approval Agency (MPAA) with the Major Project Facilitation (MPF) Programme that previously resided within the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, to form the amalgamated *Major Projects Facilitation Agency* (MPFA).
- Prior to amalgamation, between 23 July 2014 and 10 May 2017, the former MPAA actively assisted 34 major projects, including 25 projects in Tasmania and nine across Northern Australia, representing potential capital expenditure exceeding \$40 billion (refer to **Table 1**).
- The Agency accedes to requests from proponents to withhold project names for commercial-in-confidence reasons. Project names have been withheld in tables 1 & 2 below as requested by proponents.

TABLE 1: Major Projects Approval Agency (23 July 2014 to 10 May 2017)				
	Project	CAPEX ¹	Location	Industry
1.	Tamar Lakes	\$320mil	TAS	Infrastructure
2.	Name Withheld	\$50mil	TAS	Forestry
3.	Name Withheld	\$130mil	TAS	Energy
4.	Petuna Seafoods Storm Bay Project	\$50mil	TAS	Aquaculture
5.	Name Withheld	\$1.4bil	TAS	Energy
6.	UTAS – Invermay Project	\$250mil	TAS	Education
7.	Offshore Wind Farm	\$300mil	TAS	Energy
8.	Name Withheld	Not disclosed	TAS	Tourism
9.	Elementos Tin	\$30mil	TAS	Resources
10.	Mt Wellington Cableway	\$45mil	TAS	Tourism
11.	Cradle Mountain Redevelopment	\$160mil	TAS	Tourism
12.	Midland Energy Limited	\$25mil	TAS	Resources
13.	Bell Bay Aluminum	Not disclosed	TAS	Resources
14.	NE Mountain Bike Development Project	Not disclosed	TAS	Tourism
15.	Skeleton Bay Artificial Reef	\$10mil	TAS	Tourism
16.	Tasmanian Chinese Buddhist Cultural Park	\$100mil	TAS	Tourism
17.	Name Withheld	\$230mil	TAS	Resources
18.	Hydro Infrastructure Maintenance	Not disclosed	TAS	Infrastructure
19.	Grange Resources Tailings Project	Not disclosed	TAS	Resources
20.	Avebury Nickel Mine	Not disclosed	TAS	Resources
21.	King Island Scheelite Limited	Not disclosed	TAS	Resources
22.	Musselroe Bay Ecotourism Resort	Not disclosed	TAS	Tourism
23.	Van Dieman’s Land Company Dairy Expansion	\$100mil	TAS	Agriculture
24.	Name Withheld	\$250mil	TAS	Agriculture
25.	Export Barge from Huon	\$20mil	TAS	Infrastructure
26.	Project Sea Dragon	\$1.5bil	NT and WA	Aquaculture
27.	Chandler Facility	\$676 mil	NT	Resources
28.	Sandy Ridge Mining and Storage Facility	Not disclosed	NT	Resources
29.	Nolan’s Rare Earth Mine	\$1.2bil	NT	Resources
30.	Name Withheld	Not disclosed	NT	Infrastructure
31.	Name Withheld	Not disclosed	NT	Infrastructure
32.	Name Withheld	Not disclosed	NT	Energy
33.	Ichthys Gas Development	\$34bil	NT	Resources
34.	Jemena North East Gas Interconnector (NEGI)	\$800mil	NT	Infrastructure

¹ Estimated capital expenditure are sourced from the quarterly “Deloitte Access Economics - Investment Monitor” and other public financial reports.

- Following the amalgamation, as at 1 June 2017, the MPFA is assisting 29 projects, representing potential capital expenditure of approximately \$160 billion (refer to **Table 2**).

TABLE 2: Major Projects Facilitation Agency (11 May 2017 – 1 June 2017)					
	Project	MPF Status	CAPEX	Location	Industry
1.	Name Withheld	No	\$50mil	TAS	Forestry
2.	Name Withheld	No	\$130mil	TAS	Energy
3.	Name Withheld	No	\$50mil	TAS	Aquaculture
4.	Name Withheld	No	Not disclosed	TAS	Tourism
5.	Tamar Lake	No	\$320mil	TAS	Infrastructure
6.	Name Withheld	No	\$1.4bil	TAS	Renewable Energy
7.	Offshore Wind Farm	No	\$300mil	TAS	Renewable Energy
8.	UTAS – Invermay Project	No	\$250mil	TAS	Education
9.	Project Sea Dragon	Yes	\$1.5bil	NT, WA	Aquaculture
10.	Name Withheld	No	Not disclosed	NT	Renewable Energy
11.	Chandler Facility	Yes	\$676mil	NT	Resources
12.	Nolan’s Rare Earth Mine	Yes	\$705mil	NT	Resources
13.	Name Withheld	No	Not disclosed	NT	Infrastructure
14.	Mobile LNG Project	Yes	\$1bil	NT, WA, SA	Infrastructure
15.	Ichthys Gas & Condensate Field Development	Yes	\$34bil	NT, WA	Resources
16.	Sandy Ridge Facility	Yes	\$61mil	WA	Resources
17.	Alpha Coal Project	Yes	\$7.5bil	QLD	Resources
18.	Border Railway Project	Yes	\$1bil	NSW, QLD	Infrastructure
19.	Browse FLNG Development	Yes	\$40bil	WA	Resources
20.	Central Eyre Iron Project	Yes	\$4.5bil	SA	Resources
21.	Galilee Coal Project (China First Project)	Yes	\$9bil	QLD	Resources
22.	Equus Gas Fields Development	Yes	\$4.5bil	WA	Resources
23.	Mini Australian FLNG Developments	No	Not disclosed	WA	Mining
24.	Kevin's Corner Coal Project	Yes	\$2.5bil	QLD	Resources
25.	Prelude FLNG Project	Yes	\$12bil	WA	Resources
26.	West Pilbara Iron Ore Project	Yes	\$6bil	WA	Resources
27.	Yanchep Two Rocks Project	Yes	\$3bil	WA	Infrastructure
28.	Fibre Expressway Project	Yes	\$655mil	WA	Infrastructure
29.	West Seahorse Oil Field - Gippsland Basin	Yes	\$140mil	VIC	Resources