

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Budget Policy Division

Question No: 169

Topic: Funding

Reference: Hansard page 81-82 (29 May 2017)

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

Senator KETTER: How much of the \$70 billion infrastructure funding is actually specified?

Senator Cormann: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator KETTER: How much was from the 2013-14 budget?

Senator Cormann: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator KETTER: How much of the \$70 billion consists of funding, presumably grant funding, to the states?

Senator Cormann: I have just been advised there are actuals for 2013-14 and relevant subsequent years, which means that they are actually based on final budget outcomes that we delivered in government, and decisions and expenditure that incurred during our period in government.

Senator KETTER: Are you saying that none of this amount—

Senator Cormann: What I am saying is this is \$75 billion worth of infrastructure investment that went into the economy, into the community during our period in government, unless you are telling me that you made spending decisions during caretaker period.

Senator KETTER: The 2014-15 budget continued on with some of the infrastructure listed from the previous budget.

Senator Cormann: I think you are trying to have your cake and eat it too. You keep telling us that we should take responsibility, which of course we do, and now you are trying to claim credit for what we are doing in 2014-15, 2015-16 and beyond.

Senator GALLAGHER: I cannot understand what this is. You tabled this table. We have got some questions on it.

Senator Cormann: Just explain to me, are you claiming credit for the East West Link or for the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail or the Moorebank intermodal investment that we decided on or the Adelaide to Tarcoola upgrade or the WestConnex concessional loan, which you heavily criticised, or the Asset Recycling Initiative, which you also criticised, or the WA GST top-up payments which we made to the tune of more than \$1.2 billion over the last three years. Which bit are you actually claiming credit for? Is the Western Sydney Airport Corporation something that you are supporting? I am happy to give you a reconciliation on notice, and we can have a further conversation at the next estimates.

Senator KETTER: Can you take on notice how much of the funding was actually budgeted for when Labor was in government from 2008 to 2013.

Senator Cormann: I will take it on notice.

Senator GALLAGHER: Yes, because there is \$43 billion there, which is interesting.

Answer:

Please refer to BET162.