

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
20 October 2015

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 2/2.2

Topic: ARTC Scoping Study

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: F68

Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

On 2 September 2015 the Minister for Finance and the Deputy Prime Minister put out a media release saying that the scoping study for the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) had been delayed in order to consider the inland rail project between Melbourne and Brisbane. As part of this the “current tender processes for business and legal advisers for the ARTC Scoping Study” was not proceeded with, with a new process to begin “later this year”.

1. How much had been spent on the scoping study by the Government prior to this announcement?
2. How many bids for the business and legal advisers had been put in by companies? How much had been spent by these companies bidding for the adviser positions prior to this announcement?
3. How many staff in Finance had been working on this scoping study prior to the announcement? Which branch in Finance was / is responsible – was this their only task? What are these staff doing now as a result of the delay?
4. Has this “new process” to appoint suitable advisers begun yet? If not, when will this occur?

Answer:

1. At the time of the announcement the Government had spent \$5,500 (GST inclusive) on the Scoping Study.
2. Finance received 12 bids for the business advisory role and 8 bids for the legal advisory role. Finance is not privy to the amount spent by tenderers to bid for the adviser positions.
3. A total of 2.5 Finance FTE were working on the ARTC Scoping Study, along with other responsibilities. The work was carried out in the Infrastructure Projects Branch. The staff involved have worked on this and other priority tasks within the Branch since 2 September 2015.
4. Yes.