

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 317

Topic: National Freight Strategy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator EGGLESTON asked:

1. What is Treasury's involvement in the development of the National Freight Strategy?
2. The draft of the National Ports Strategy has been released. What was the Treasury's involvement in the development of the Ports strategy? Will the Government respond to the Ports strategy when it is complete or wait for the overarching National Freight Strategy to be completed?

Answer:

1. Treasury and other relevant Government agencies have been consulted by Infrastructure Australia during the development of the National Freight Strategy. The Secretary to the Treasury is a member of the Infrastructure Australia Council and he, or his representative, participates in Council meetings and discussions.

2. Treasury and other relevant Government agencies have been consulted by Infrastructure Australia during the development of the National Port Strategy.

On 2 July 2010 Infrastructure Australia released its latest report to the Council of Australian Government (COAG) on the nation's infrastructure priorities. In it, Infrastructure Australia notes that the National Ports Strategy will be submitted to the COAG for consideration and decision later this year. The report also notes that Infrastructure Australia will provide formal advice to the COAG in the form of a proposed National Freight Strategy in late 2010.

The form and nature of any government response to these reports will be a matter for consideration within COAG and by individual governments at the time. For the part of the Australian Government, the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government is responsible for transport policy matters.