

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates Hearings 2002-2003, 10-11 February 2003

Question: PM 17

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Albury Wodonga Bypass

Hansard Page: F&PA 59

Senator Allison asked: Provide a copy of the deputy PM's press release. Also Liberal MP's press releases

Answer: Copies are attached.

Question: PM 18

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Albury Wodonga Bypass

Hansard Page: F&PA 59

Senator Allison asked: Can you indicate what approach was made by the PM to the NSW Government?

Answer: No approach was made by the Prime Minister to the NSW government on the National Highway upgrade through Albury Wodonga. PM&C notes that matters relating to the National Highway fall within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Transport and Regional Services.

Question: PM 19

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Albury Wodonga Bypass

Hansard Page: F&PA 59

Senator Allison asked: Outline the briefing process for PM&C developing the briefing.

Answer: Consistent with usual practice, PM&C responded to briefing requests from the Prime Minister and his office. In preparing briefing, PM&C sought information from the Department of Transport and Regional Services and reflected the views expressed in the range of correspondence to the Prime Minister on options for the National Highway upgrade through Albury Wodonga.

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Question: PM 20

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Albury Wodonga Bypass

Hansard Page: F&PA 60

Senator Allison asked: What was the changed decision based on?

Answer: As indicated in the media release of 6 December 2002 by the Minister for Transport and Regional Services, the Hon John Anderson MP, the government reconsidered its position on the National Highway upgrade through Albury Wodonga after the strong representations made by the two Federal Members, the Member for Farrer, Sussan Ley, and the Member for Indi, Sophie Panopoulos.

These representations included an assessment of the safety, cost and timing implications of the options under consideration for the National Highway upgrade through Albury Wodonga.

The government also took account of representations of local Councillors Mayor Patricia Gould of Albury and Mayor Lisa Mahood of Wodonga, made on behalf of the local community.