

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2006

Question: F9

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Appropriation details for 2006-07 measures that have expenditure in 2005-06

Hansard Page: F&PA 37

Senator Sherry asked:

The bill that has gone before parliament is \$3.74 billion. Senator Minchin, presumably you will handle this in the Senate. The second reading speech of Mr Nairn, who handled the matter in the House of Representatives, says \$3.74 billion, with no explanation. We would like to know what we are appropriating money for when we approve an appropriation in the parliament.

I am sure that by the time it gets to the Senate, just a list of the substantial appropriations that make up the \$3.74 billion would be useful.

Answer:

The Special Minister of State, the Hon Gary Nairn MP, provided full details of major items of expenditure included in 2005-06 Appropriation Bill (No. 5) and 2005-06 Appropriation Bill (No. 6) in his second reading speeches (Hansard of 9 May 2006; pages 66-68 refer). Mr Nairn advised that the total appropriation sought through the Supplementary Additional Estimates Bills was approximately \$3,625.7 million, with \$1,336.5 million sought in Bill 5 and approximately \$2.3 billion sought in Bill 6.

As advised by the Special Minister of State, Bill 5 provided for the following major items of expenditure:

Item	\$ million
Murray-Darling Basin Commission	500.0
Cyclone Larry	310.4
Grants to a number of medical research facilities	265.0
Australia's interstate rail network, including the upgrading of the North-South corridor	243.0
Contributions to universities	87.0

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Item	\$ million
Establishment of new medical schools in Victoria	23.0
Support to primary producers in regions that have been declared eligible for Exceptional Circumstances Assistance and those in regions that have been declared eligible for Interim Income Support	19.5
Construction cost of a non-government, community managed boarding college to deliver education and related services to Indigenous high school students on the Tiwi Islands	10.0
Establishment of the South Australian State Aquatic Centre	15.0
Establishment of an Australian Sports Museum	15.0
Upgrade of Toyota Park	9.6

As advised by the Special Minister of State, Bill 6 provided for the following major items of expenditure:

Item	\$ million
Investing in the nation's infrastructure	2,126.0
Superannuation entitlements of former State Rail employees of South Australia and Tasmania	521.2

The above amounts represent the cash payments for these 2005-06 measures. In total, these payments exceed the amounts included in Appropriation Bills 5 and 6, because of the availability of unused funds within existing appropriations.