

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Budget Estimates 25 May 2011

**Question: 14**

**Topic: Ord Expansion**

**Asked By: Senator MACDONALD**

**Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 34**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** The Western Australian government's contribution was for hard infrastructure in channels, roads and in the opening up of new land. Do you have knowledge of how that project is going, or is that something that the Western Australian government keeps to itself?

**Ms Fleming:** I could take that on notice and update for you on the Ord expansion.

**Answer:**

The WA Government advises that Phase One, which delivers 19km of new arterial irrigation channel, control structures, storm water drains and 14 km of new road is about 80 per cent complete. It is estimated that Phase One will be completed in three months.

Phase Two of the project is the subject of an *Environmental Impact Statement Assessment* required under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act).

The Phase Two construction contract and commencement of works is expected to progress once this Assessment process is completed. The WA Government and the contractor are in commercial negotiations.

The WA Government's current financial commitment to the project is \$220 million.