

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARINGS**

**PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET PORTFOLIO**

**Department/Agency: Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Outcome: 1**

**Topic: Regional Infrastructure Program – Tax Reform Package**

**Senator: MACDONALD**

**Question reference number: 15**

**Type of question: Hansard F&A page 43-44, Tuesday 19 October 2010**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Okay. But just let me make this clear, the bulk of the Regional Infrastructure Fund is not of this department but of the infrastructure department.

**Ms Foster**—In broad terms, \$573 million comes to this department and the remainder is allocated to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport. ...

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Yes. So it could go. It could go. Thank you. This is being funded by the mining tax, is it, Minister, or can your officials assist you on that?

**Senator Sherry**—Is it part of the tax reform package?

**Ms Foster**—It is.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—It is. And what happens if the mining tax does not go through? Perhaps I should ask that to the minister. Perhaps, Minister, you would say it is hypothetical.

**Senator Sherry**—Actually I would not say that. I would have to clarify the status of this program that we are discussing in terms of the future of the mining tax, but certainly the Treasurer has made it very clear in respect of some other programs of which I have knowledge—for example, standard deductions and the instant write-off of small business. Those sorts of programs are funded from the mining tax and are contingent on the mining tax as part of the package. But with this program, I do not know if any of the officers do know whether it is contingent on the mining tax or not. If they do not, we will take it on notice and find out for you

**Number of pages: 1**

**Answer:**

The Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) comprises \$5.6 billion of revenue from expected proceeds of the Minerals Resource Rent Tax and an additional \$400 million between 2010-11 and 2013-14. The additional \$400 million has already been provided for in the Budget. The ongoing operation of the RIF, including the prioritisation of funding and project selection, remains subject to further Government consideration.