

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates February 2011

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 20

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (MCU) Major Cities Unit

**Topic:** Major Cities Unit work plan for 2011-12

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 27 (22/02/11)

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Finally, just to come back to where I started, are you allocating your relatively scarce resources, so many per cent, to capital cities and so much effort to regional cities? How are you thinking of dividing your work between major capital cities, minor capital cities—if there are such things—and regional cities?

**Ms Ekelund**—It is not via a scientific formula.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Or a mathematical one either.

**Ms Ekelund**—No. It is based on our work program and collaborations, so we have done more work, indeed, in the capitals and we try to work closely with the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors, but we also recognise the importance of regional cities and are ramping up our work in regional cities. We will be featuring regional cities in the 2011 *State of Australian cities* report, so we are progressing—

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Have they not been mentioned today?

**Ms Ekelund**—The *State of Australian cities* report 2010 covered the 17 cities which were over 100,000 in the 2006 census. Post the 2006 census, Albury-Wodonga has also reached in excess of 100,000, so it is 18 cities we are working in.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Sorry, you said you were going to focus on the regional cities in the next report.

**Ms Ekelund**—Yes, that is right.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—My question was: you did not focus on them in the earlier one?

**Ms Ekelund**—We did have data and information about them in the other report, but we want to do a special feature on regional cities in the upcoming report.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—You mentioned that in your work plan you had set out certain things. Is your work plan a document that I could ask to be produced to the committee?

**Mr Mrdak**—We can certainly provide on notice details of what the work program is, yes.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Thank you.

**Answer:**

The Major Cities Unit is responsible for enabling the delivery of key priorities including the National Urban Policy; the Government's response to the COAG Cities agenda, including its approach post January 2012; the annual release of the State of Australian Cities Report; and the provision of urban planning advice across Government, and on specific infrastructure projects.