

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 01

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** 14 Road and 17 Rail Economic Stimulus Plan Projects

**Hansard Page/s:** 16 (21/10/10)

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Are there any others in active consideration, Mr Mrdak? I think Mr Deegan mentioned there were some the government was dealing with that had not come through Infrastructure Australia.

**Mr Mrdak**—Some of the projects that I have just outlined were established by the government as part of the budget last year. The bulk of those are funded from the Building Australia Fund and did come through the IA process. There are a couple of projects which are outside that. But the bulk of those are.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Which are the ones outside it, and where are they at?

**Mr Mrdak**—I think the major one the government decided to fund was the bringing forward of the nation building projects, which are outside the IA process as part of the fiscal stimulus.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Which ones?

**Mr Mrdak**—There were 14 road projects and a number of rail projects brought forward as part of the fiscal stimulus which were not done as part of the Infrastructure Australia process.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—On notice, could you let me have a list of those? I suspect we have got this before. If we have, you will have it readily at hand.

**Mr Mrdak**—Certainly.

**Answer:**

The 14 Road and 17 Rail Economic Stimulus Plan projects are:

**14 Road Projects**

1. Pacific Highway: Banora Point Upgrade,
2. Pacific Highway: Bulahdelah Bypass
3. Hume Highway: Tarcutta Bypass,
4. Hume Highway: Woomargama Bypass,
5. Goulburn Valley Highway: Nagambie Bypass,
6. Princes Highway East: Traralgon to Sale,
7. Western Ring Road Upgrade,
8. Western Highway: Anthony's Cutting Realignment,
9. Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Dinmore to Goodna,
10. Douglas Arterial Duplication,
11. Pacific Motorway: Springwood South to Daisy Hill,
12. Northern Expressway and Port Wakefield Upgrade,

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

13. Mandurah Entrance Road, and
14. Brighton Bypass.

**17 Rail Projects**

1. Hunter Valley: St Heliers to Muswellbrook Duplication,
2. Hunter Valley: Minimbah Bank Third Rail Line,
3. Hunter Valley: Bi-directional Signalling Between Maitland and Branxton,
4. Hunter Valley: Ulan Line Passing Loops and Duplication,
5. Hunter Valley: Minimbah to Maitland Third Rail Line,
6. Hunter Valley: Liverpool Ranges New Rail Alignment,
7. Wodonga Bypass Duplication,
8. Adelaide to Kalgoorlie: New and Extended Loops,
9. Seymour to Wodonga: Track Upgrade,
10. Cootamundra to Parkes: Track Upgrade,
11. Sydney to Brisbane: New, Extended and Upgraded Loops,
12. Qld Border to Acacia Ridge: Track Upgrade,
13. Western Victoria: Track Upgrade,
14. Cootamundra to Crystal Brook: New and Extended Loops,
15. Melbourne to Junee: Passing Loops,
16. Melbourne to Adelaide: Extended Loops, and
17. Advanced Train Management System (Phase 2): a non-construction project.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 02

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Estimated costs of projects not yet started.

**Hansard Page/s:** 16-17 (21/10/10)

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Could you give me that? Are there any projects that are destined for support which have not yet started?

**Mr Mrdak**—You say ‘started’. There are commitments to all of the projects and work is underway for all the ones I have outlined. Major construction is yet to commence on projects like the regional rail link project in Victoria. There has been some early work on Spencer Street station and some preliminary work and design on other parts of the element, but they are underway. The bulk of the other projects are up and running. One other project—I think it is the O-Bahn project in South Australia—is still at the planning stage.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—For those that have not yet started, the shovel has not yet been turned, can you give us a list of the estimated costs of those projects in the pipeline?

**Mr Mrdak**—Certainly. We will take that on notice.

**Answer:**

In the 2009-10 budget the Government announced its commitment to a number of the projects listed in the 2009 Infrastructure Australia report.

The two port projects are subject to further advice from Infrastructure Australia.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 03

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Townsville Ring Road

**Hansard Page/s:** 19 (21/10/10)

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—After yesterday's spat by BHP, that is looking increasingly unlikely. Perhaps I should ask you this, Mr Mrdak, or the minister. I take it that if the mining tax broadly, so-called, does not go ahead, that Townsville ring road will not proceed?

**Senator Carr**—You have based your question on an assumption which I am not certain is valid at all. What I will do is take your question on notice.

**Answer:**

The Townsville Ring Road project is proposed to be funded out of the Regional Infrastructure Fund.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 04

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** State contribution to the Moreton Bay Rail Link and Princes Highway West - Winchelsea to Colac

**Hansard Page/s:** 30 (21/10/10)

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—The Moreton Bay one and the Princess Highway I am interested in.

**Ms O’Connell**—Certainly, in terms of the Princess Highway, there is a contribution from the Victorian government. So that will commence ahead of the Australian government contribution starting. With the Moreton Bay rail link—

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Do you know when? Do you have that information?

**Mr Foulds**—I do not have that information. I can get that to you shortly.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Thanks.

**Answer:**

**Moreton Bay Rail Link:** The Australian Government has committed \$742 million from 2014-15 towards construction of the Moreton Bay Rail Link. Additional funding of \$300 million from the Queensland Government and \$105 million from the Moreton Bay Regional Council plus state owned land will be provided. Subject to finalisation of the detailed planning for the project, preliminary construction is expected to commence in the second half of 2012 with construction to be completed by 2016.

**Princes Highway West – Winchelsea to Colac:** The Australian Government has committed \$7 million for the planning on this section of the Highway during the current Nation Building Program (2008-09 to 2013-14). Construction will begin in 2014-15 with the Australian and Victorian governments providing \$257.5 million each to this \$515 million project.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 05

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Moreton Bay Rail Link – timeline for construction

**Hansard Page/s:** 30 (21/10/10)

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—I was going to ask if you could, on notice, give me a time line. Is that agreement likely to be done by the time that we have set for answers to questions, which I guess would be early December?

**Mr Mrdak**—We would anticipate that we should have a time line settled. But if we—

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Okay. In that case, take it on notice.

**Answer:**

Please see response to NB-II 04.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 06

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Nation Building Projects - State contributions

**Hansard Page/s:** 32 (21/10/10)

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—This is for Richmond Bridge, Eden, the Princes Highway, the Great Eastern Highway and the Tasman Highway?

**Mr Mrdak**—That is right.

**Ms O’Connell**—All 10 projects.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—All 10 projects?

**Ms O’Connell**—It is \$51.1 million up to 2013-14, and from 2014-15 onwards it is \$3.5 billion.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—All right; I am with you. There are only five that are in the prior 2013-14 category—is that right?

**Ms O’Connell**—That is true for the Australian government contribution.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—And that total contribution is \$51.1 million?

**Ms O’Connell**—Yes.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—And the state contribution—do you have that figure?

**Ms O’Connell**—I do not have them for each. I have them for the projects, but I do not have the sum of them. We can do that and provide it to you.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Okay. There is only five. Perhaps you could just quickly run through the five state commitments—if it is easy. If it is not, it can be on notice—yes, take it on notice.

**Ms O’Connell**—Okay.

**Answer:**

The Commonwealth and States contributions for each of the project up to 2013-14 are set out below:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Commonwealth contribution \$m</b>	<b>State contribution \$m</b>
Richmond Bridge (NSW)	2.0	Nil
Eden Port feasibility study (NSW)	0.1	Nil
Princes Highway West (Planning) (Vic)	7.0	Nil
Great Eastern Highway (WA)	40.0	10.0
Tasman Highway (Tas)	2.0	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>10.0</b>

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No:** NB-II 07

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Nation Building Program – Maintenance Funding for National Network Roads

**Hansard Page/s:** 34 (21/10/10)

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—And are you able to tell me in the case of South Australia what the state government is required to spend? Is it dollar for dollar?

**Ms O’Connell**—No, Senator. We do not have that information. We are happy to take it on notice.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Perhaps you could do that on notice for all of the states, not just South Australia. That would be helpful. That is in some sort of agreement with the state government, is it?

**Ms O’Connell**—That is correct. It forms part of the nation building MOU in terms of the maintenance allocation to the state.

**Answer:**

The maintenance of the roads on the National Land Transport Network is the responsibility of the states and territories. Under the Nation Building Program, the Australian Government makes annual funding contributions to the States/Territories to assist their maintenance work.



**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 08

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Yorkeys Crossing

**Hansard Page/s:** 34-35 (21/10/10)

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—There is apparently an alternative route around Yorkeys Crossing. Is that part of the national highway system?

**Mr Pittar**—I do not believe that it is. My understanding would be that the national network would stick to the existing bridge that crosses the Spencer Gulf.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Could you just double-check that? If that answer is not correct, could you get back to me? We will leave it at that. You might just let me know, on notice, if Yorkeys Crossing has come to the knowledge of the department in any shape or form.

**Mr Pittar**—My recollection with Yorkeys Crossing is that it goes, if you like, above where Spencer Gulf goes to Port Augusta, so it is not actually crossing the water as such. My understanding, as I say, is that it is not part of the national network, but we will confirm that and come back to you on that.

**Answer:**

The National Land Transport Network through Port Augusta comprises Highway One, Victoria Parade, the Eyre Highway across Spencer Gulf (Port Augusta Bridge) and the Stuart Highway. Yorkeys Crossing is not on the National Network.

The Department has not received representations in relation to Yorkeys Crossing.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 09

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Jubilee Bridge - Innisfail, North Queensland

**Hansard Page/s:** 37-38 (21/10/10)

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—I am sure there was, which confirms what you are saying. I asked you on notice to give me the reason why the request from the Cassowary Coast Regional Council was rejected. In the answer you gave to my question when I raised it before, you said the Jubilee Bridge is a local government responsibility. That was the answer. I am sure it was a very accurate answer, but it did not really answer anything. Perhaps I could pursue that. To explain, the Jubilee Bridge runs through Innisfail. It is not part of the national highway. But as a result of the Jubilee Bridge being out because it practically fell down, and it is a major thoroughfare between two suburbs of Innisfail, you might say, it meant that all the traffic had to go around onto the main road quite a way along the main road over a bridge along the main road to a dangerous intersection and then come back to get to the other side of Innisfail. So whilst it was not part of the main road, its absence certainly put a great wear factor on the main road but, more importantly, a human life factor on the main road. So with that background, I ask you on notice to let me know the reasons why the government was not able to accede to the request of the regional council for assistance.

**Mr Mrdak**—Certainly.

**Answer:**

As the bridge does not form part of the National Land Transport Network, funding for a replacement bridge is a matter for the Queensland Government and Cassowary Coast Regional Council.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 10

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Townsville Port Access Road – North Queensland

**Hansard Page/s:** 39 (21/10/10)

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Can you just update me? The Townsville port road, which, again, was a promise in the 2007 election, has been completed from the western highway through to the Bruce Highway. But from the Bruce Highway through to the port, there is no activity happening at all. Are you able to tell me when it is contemplated that that section might work? I think it might involve a bridge across Ross Creek as well.

**Mr Pittar**—I might need to take that on notice.

**Mr Mrdak**—We will get that for you.

**Answer:**

Stage 2 of the Townsville Port Access Road - the Eastern Access Corridor - involves the construction of a new 7.5 kilometre, two lane roadway link from the Bruce Highway to the Port of Townsville, including a new low level fixed bridge over the Ross River.

Construction of Stage 2 commenced in July 2009 and works completed to date include construction of all bridges apart from the Ross River Bridge, earthworks to subgrade level and drainage. The project is due to be completed in 2012.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 11

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Bruce Highway – Curra to Sarina projects and Burdekin Road Safety Audit

**Hansard Page/s:** 40 (21/10/10)

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Yes. I am pleased to see you do. You have some appreciation of what people talk about. Curra to Sarina, it is said on the website, is under construction. Do you have some information on when it is intended this might be completed? There are no details on the website.

**Mr Pittar**—I might have to take that one on notice.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—If you would, please. The Burdekin Road Safety Audit project? The website says it is not started. Again, \$25 million was promised in the 2007 election. Is there any anticipated update of when that might be?

**Mr Pittar**—We will take that one on notice.

**Answer:**

The Australian Government is providing funding for the following projects on the Bruce Highway between Curra and Sarina from the Nation Building Program, in the period 2008-09 to 2013-14:

<b>Projects – Bruce Highway Curra to Sarina</b>	<b>Total AG allocation (\$m)</b>	<b>Total Project Cost (\$m)</b>	<b>Project Status</b>
Black Spots – Curra and Sarina	115	115	Under Construction
Rest Areas – Curra and Sarina	20	20	In Planning
Overtaking Lanes – Curra and Sarina	105	105	In Planning
Yeppen Flood Plain Study	5	5	Study Only
Calliope Crossroads	55*	150	In Planning
Cabbage Tree to Carmen Road and Back Creek Range section upgrade	100**	TBD	In Planning
Upgrading of southern approaches to Gin Gin	20	20	In Planning
New Isis River Bridge	25	29.6	Under Construction
Southern approaches to Sarina	10	10	In Planning
<b>Total Curra to Sarina</b>	<b>455</b>		

\* During the 2010 Election, the ALP committed a further \$95 million to be provided for the Calliope Crossroads project in Nation Building Program 2, post 2013-14.

\*\* Deferred as per the Prime Minister's announcement on 27 January 2011.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

Construction start and completion dates for these projects, where known, are available on the Nation Building Program website.

The Australian Government has committed \$25 million to the Bruce Highway - Sarina to Cairns - Burdekin Road Safety Audit Project in the Nation Building Program. Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads has not yet submitted its Project Proposal Report for this project and a date for commencement of construction has not yet been determined.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 12

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Bruce Highway – Cooroy to Curra Queensland

**Hansard Page/s:** 42-43 (21/10/10)

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—I was indicating to Senator Heffernan that he could go, but it would be a good idea, if we have to change programs, if I could just get an update on the Bruce Highway—that Cooroy to Curra upgrade. We have mentioned it in passing and in pieces, but can you just give me some more information? How much money has been allocated to section A and how much is currently being spent? What environmental impacts are being done on Coles Creek? What about environmental approvals generally? Are you able to give me them? I have a couple of other questions. Are you still funding the 45-kilometre long thick painted median strip between Cooroy southern interchange and the Wide Bay intersection north of Gympie? When will work start on this project? Will the government fund any additional overtaking lanes?

**Mr Mrdak**—We will certainly give you an update on Cooroy-Curra stage B, which we have got under construction.

**Mr Pittar**—Senator, as Mr Mrdak said, section B of the Cooroy to Curra upgrade is currently under construction.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Has section A been completed?

**Mr Pittar**—No, Senator. Section B is the priority area. It is the part of the road which had the worst accident history, so it was the priority to move ahead on. The total project cost for that section B is \$613 million, with the Australian government contribution being \$488 million. Section B runs from Sankeys Road north for about 12 kilometres. That is a very significant construction site at the moment. It involves the construction of a four-lane divided carriageway on a new alignment between two new interchange connections on the existing Bruce Highway located south of Sankeys Road and south of the Traveston Road, including an underpass at Coles Creek. Construction commenced in September 2009 and is expected to be completed around the middle of 2012.

In relation to the other sections—sections A, C and D—the government has made a financial contribution to the securing of that alignment and for the future work to complete that entire section through to Curra at some future point. But at this stage, it is section B that is the active construction site and is provided for in the current Nation Building Program.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Are you able to tell me what has been allocated to section A?

**Mr Pittar**—From memory, I think \$200 million was contributed to securing some of that alignment in the future. But I would prefer to just clarify that on notice, if I may.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Okay. Are you able to tell me anything about the environmental impacts of the work being undertaken on Coles Creek, particularly where the creek is being rerouted and straightened?

**Mr Pittar**—I do not have specific information about the crossing of Coles Creek and would take that on notice.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Yes, please. Will you still fund the 45-kilometre long thick

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

painted median strip between Cooroy southern interchange and the Wide Bay Highway intersection? Does that mean anything to you?

**Mr Pittar**—I would have to take that specific amount—

**Ms O'Connell**—We would have to take it on notice.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—I want to know when work will start on the project, what government funds will be spent and whether the government will fund any additional overtaking lanes along this section of the highway. What is the final cost of the variable message signs that have been installed at Black Mountain, Federal, Coles Creek, Tuchekoi, Traveston and Kybong? When did each sign become operational? How often are the signs used? What messages have been displayed since they became operational? I suspect you might have to take most of those on notice.

**Mr Pittar**—Yes. We do not have that detail, I am afraid.

**Answer:**

The Australian Government is providing \$200 million from the Nation Building Program in the period 2008-09 to 2013-14 towards planning, design and landowner compensation for the proposed 65 kilometre Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra upgrade (Sections A to D). Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (QDTMR) has used part of this funding to meet the planning, pre construction and land acquisition costs for Section A.

The management of environmental issues associated with construction of Section B and the future construction of Section A, including impacts on Coles Creek, are a matter for QDTMR. The projects will be subject to approvals from both the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management and the Federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. It was confirmed on 30 March 2009 by the then Federal Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, that the Section B upgrade project was not a controlled action.

The Australian Government is providing \$2.2 million from the Bruce Highway – Black Spots program for a project involving the marking of a one metre wide centre median strip along 46 kilometres of the Bruce Highway from the Wide Bay Highway intersection to the southern Cooroy interchange (north and south of Gympie) to reduce the likelihood of head-on crashes. The works commenced in February 2011 and will take around six months to complete.

The Australian Government has not committed any funding from the Nation Building Program for additional overtaking lanes on the Bruce Highway in this area.

The Australian Government provided \$1.5 million through the Nation Building Program for the installation of variable message signs on the Bruce Highway between Cooroy and Gympie. The six variable message signs became operational in December 2009. QDTMR is responsible for the operation of the variable message signs, including the messages being displayed.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 13

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building-Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Percentage of Local Government Projects Completed

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

What percentage of local government projects under the Nation Building program has been completed?

**Answer:**

Since November 2007 the Australian Government has announced twelve projects with local government authorities being the direct funding recipients. Of these twelve projects, two projects, 17% of the total number, have been completed to date.



**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 14

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Hume Highway – Tarcutta Bypass project

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

What is the status of the Hume Highway – Tarcutta Bypass project?

- a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
- b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
- c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?

**Answer:**

Early works commenced in January 2010 and major construction commenced in March 2010. The project is expected to be completed in late 2011.

- a) \$225 million has been paid.
- b) Yes.
- c) Yes.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 15

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building-Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Hume Highway – Woomargama Bypass project

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

What is the status of the Hume Highway – Woomargama Bypass project?

- a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
- b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
- c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?

**Answer:**

Early works commenced in February 2010 and major construction commenced in March 2010. The project is expected to be completed in late 2011.

- a) \$265 million has been paid.
- b) Yes.
- c) Yes.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 16

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building-Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Pacific Motorway upgrade - Gateway to Logan Section B -  
Springwood South to Daisy Hill

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

What is the status of the Pacific Motorway – Springwood South to Daisy Hill project?

- a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
- b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
- c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?

**Answer:**

Construction commenced in November 2009 and is expected to be completed in late 2011.

- a) \$128.6 million has been paid.
- b) Yes, the project is running to the revised schedule and budget in the March 2009 Project Proposal Report submitted by Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.
- c) Yes.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 17

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building-Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Goulburn Valley Highway - Nagambie Bypass

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

What is the status of the Goulburn Valley Highway – Nagambie Bypass project?

- a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
- b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
- c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?

**Answer:**

Construction on the northern section commenced on 14 December 2009 and is expected to be completed in early 2011. Construction on the main bypass section commenced on 15 March 2010 and is expected to be completed in mid 2012.

- a) \$79.5 million has been paid.
- b) Yes.
- c) Yes.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 18

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building-Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Princes Highway East Duplication - Traralgon to Sale

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

What is the status of the Princess Highway – Taralgon to Sale project?

- a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
- b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
- c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?

**Answer:**

Construction commenced on 3 February 2010 and is expected to be completed in early 2014.

- a) \$27.3 million has been paid.
- b) Yes.
- c) Yes.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 19

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building-Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Western Highway – Anthony's Cutting Realignment

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

What is the status of the Western Highway – Anthony's Cutting Realignment project?

- a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
- b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
- c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?

**Answer:**

Construction commenced on 18 February 2010 and is expected to be completed in early 2012.

- a) \$110.2 million has been paid.
- b) Yes.
- c) Yes.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 20

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building-Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Hunter Expressway

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

What is the status of the Hunter Expressway project?

- a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
- b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
- c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?

**Answer:**

Construction commenced in August 2010 and is expected to be completed by late 2013.

- a) \$228 million has been paid.
- b) Yes.
- c) Yes.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 21

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building-Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Pacific Highway – Kempsey Bypass

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

What is the status of the Pacific Highway – Kempsey Bypass project?

- a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
- b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
- c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?

**Answer:**

Construction commenced in June 2010 and is expected to be completed by mid 2014.

- a) \$150 million has been paid.
- b) Yes.
- c) Yes.



**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 22

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building-Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Canberra Airport Road Upgrade

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

What is the status of the Canberra Airport Road Upgrade project?

- a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
- b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
- c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?

**Answer:**

Design work commenced on the Monaro Highway Duplication in November 2009.

Construction is expected to commence in early 2011.

Construction commenced on the package of works in the Canberra Airport Precinct in March 2010 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2011. One of the package works – Majura Road pavement improvements – was completed in June 2010.

- a) \$6.8 million
- b) Yes.
- c) Yes.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 23

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building-Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** National Cycling Strategy for 2011 to 2016

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

Minister Anthony Albanese recently released a National Cycling Strategy for 2011 to 2016 at the Australian Transport Council meeting of 24 September 2010. The short term goal is to double the number of people cycling over the next five years. No dollars were mentioned.

Will the Federal Government be diverting funds towards this strategy and how much?

**Answer:**

The Government is providing funding of \$646,000 over 5 years to 2013-14 to Austroads to perform the secretariat function for the Australian Bicycle Council which developed the *National Cycling Strategy 2011-2016* and works to implement the priorities under the Strategy.

The Government has committed nearly \$40 million to the National Bike Paths Program, which is aimed at supporting and creating jobs and improving skills in local communities. The cycling infrastructure provides Australians with a greener, healthier mode of transport, easing congestion and curbing carbon emissions.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 24

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building-Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Nation Building Funding Provided Under Memorandum of Understandings

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Macdonald asked:**

I refer to your answer earlier in today's Estimates hearings that all of the \$37 billion in the current Nation Building Program is 'committed'.

- 1) How much of that has been committed under Memorandum of Understandings?
- 2) How much of that money is committed under legally binding contract between the Commonwealth and the States?

**Answer:**

1-2) All funds under the Nation Building Program have been committed through Memoranda of Understanding with the State and Territory governments and local government authorities.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 25

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Tasmanian Infrastructure

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Colbeck asked:**

- 1) Could DIT please advise on the status of each road project undertaken (finished or still underway) since 1 January 2010. For each project, please include:
  - a) Original budget (broken down by financial year)
  - b) Current Budget (broken down by financial year)
  - c) Final Cost (if project completed) (broken down by financial year)
  - d) If there have been any requests from the Tasmanian Government for additional funding and the size of that request
  - e) Original completion date
  - f) Current proposed completion data
  - g) Final completion date (if applicable)
  - h) Reasons for any delays of more than 1 month
  - i) Cost of administration
  - j) Cost of hospitality (or similar) for the marking of any milestones
- 2) Can DIT please advise on any submissions or requests made by the Tasmanian Government for financial assistance (full or part) for new road projects since 1 January 2010? When was this request made? What was the size of this request?
- 3) Has the Tasmanian Government or a local government made a request for funding for the Bass Highway west of Burnie since 1 January 2010? When? Who? How much? For what?
- 4) Has the Tasmanian Government or a local government made a request for additional funding for the Tasmanian rail network since 1 January 2010? When? Who? How much? For what?
- 5) What is the status of funding for the Tasmanian rail network west of Burnie?
- 6) What is the status of funding for the Tasmanian rail network within the West Coast local government area?
- 7) Has the Tasmanian Government or a local government made a request for additional funding for the Tasmanian ports network since 1 January 2010? When? Who? How much? For what?

**Answer:**

Refer to the Nation Building Program Website.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 26

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Sale of Queensland Rail

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Williams asked:**

- 1) Is the ARTC contemplating an involvement in the sale of Queensland rail?
- 2) Will it join a consortium of possible buyers?
- 3) Will it do so on the basis that it will manage the track?
- 4) What plans do the ARTC have in terms of an involvement in the purchase of Queensland Rail by the private sector?

**Answer:**

- 1) ARTC participated with a consortium of Coal Miners for a bid for the track in the coal network. The Coal Miners consortium did not proceed with the bid.
- 2) See above
- 3) See above
- 4) See above

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 27

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Status of Infrastructure Projects

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

- 1) Can Infrastructure Australia detail the current status of infrastructure projects identified as priorities in its report to COAG of December 2008 and June 2010?
- 2) Does Infrastructure Australia consider that the infrastructure projects identified as priorities are proceeding at an adequate pace?
- 3) Does Infrastructure Australia consider that the Commonwealth and state governments have given adequate consideration to developing and implementing infrastructure plans?
  - a) If so, how did Infrastructure Australia arrive at this conclusion?
- 4) Can Infrastructure Australia provide a list and estimated cost of all of the projects in the pipeline?
- 5) Has Infrastructure Australia received any advice from the Department regarding the availability of future Commonwealth funding for future infrastructure projects?
  - a) If so, then what are the projected budget outlays to 2013-14?
  - b) If not, then what is the future role of Infrastructure Australia? What is its ongoing purpose in the absence of government funding?

**Answer:**

- 1) The projects identified in the December 2008 report to COAG were those identified by Infrastructure Australia for further analysis. The Government has invested in a number of these projects. Infrastructure Australia will consider the remaining projects on their merits in future assessment processes.
- 2) Yes
- 3) Yes
  - a. The independence of Infrastructure Australia allows it to assess the efforts of the Commonwealth and state governments in this regard.
- 4) This information is set out in the May 2009 and June 2010 reports.
- 5) Infrastructure Australia is an advisory council with statutory functions that are set out in the *Infrastructure Australia Act 2008*.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 28

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Infrastructure Projects Timeframes

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

- 1) Can the Infrastructure Australia outline the number, cost, description and projected timeframes of infrastructure projects initiated since the Council of Australian Governments' Agreement of 5 February 2009 on the Nation Building program?
  - a) If so, is the Department aware of any projects that have exceeded original cost estimates?
  - b) If not, then how is the Department accounting for projects, particularly project expenditure, under the Nation Building program?
- 2) What is the percentage of National Building infrastructure projects that have been tendered and are contracted for construction?
  - a) If there are some projects not contracted, when will these projects commence?
  - b) Why have some of these projects not been contracted?
- 3) Can the Department outline the number, type, and cost of infrastructure projects that have been completed since the Council of Australian Governments' Agreement of 5 February 2009?
- 4) Can the Department provide:
  - a) A complete list of projects that have been initiated under the Nation Building Program?
  - b) A breakdown of the cost estimates and budget allocations of these projects for the financial years 2008-09 to 2013-14?
- 5) For all of the infrastructure projects under the Nation Building Program, can the Department outline all of the projects in the pipeline list require further demonstration of their strategic fit, economic benefits or deliverability before they could be considered as a priority by Infrastructure Australia?
  - a) If not, can the Department explain why this assessment has not been made?
- 6) Has the Department made recommendations to COAG or PM&C concerning possible project interventions under the Nation Building program intended to address concerns with project slippages, cost overruns and project delivery?
  - a) If so, what were the nature of these project slippages, cost overruns and project delivery issues?
  - b) If not, does the Department believe that all the projects under the Nation Building program are being delivered on schedule and within budget?
    - i. If so, how has the Department arrived at this conclusion?
    - ii. If not, then what steps will the Department take to correct project slippages, cost overruns and project delivery issues?
    - iii. If not, what are the additional costs to the tax payer of the project slippages, cost overruns and any other project delivery issues?

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

- 7) What advice, including financial costings, has the Department provided to, or received from, the Oversight Group charged with supporting and monitoring the implementation of key infrastructure and stimulus measures?
  - a) When will this advice and any financial costings be made publicly available?
  - b) What is the frequency of any advice and financial costings provided?
- 8) Is the Department aware of any interventions or advice that the Oversight Group has made to prevent and address concerns with project slippages, cost overruns and project delivery of the Nation Building program?
- 9) Is the Department aware if the Heads of Treasuries for the states have reported to the Ministerial Council for Federal Financial Relations in regard to the expenditure and output benchmarks for additional Commonwealth funding?
  - a) If so, to what extent have the benchmarks reported at B3 of the Council of Australian Governments' Agreement of 5 February 2009 been met by each state and territory?
  - b) If so, how has the Ministerial Council made the assessment that the benchmarks have been met?
  - c) If not, to what extent has the Commonwealth imposed sanctions as detailed in B8 of the Council of Australian Governments' Agreement of 5 February 2009?
- 10) Can the Department outline if any, and if so how many, issues are yet to be resolved before COAG that may impact on the delivery of the Nation Building program?
- 11) How many of these issues have been resolved and how many are pending?

**Answer:**

- 1) See [www.nationbuildingprogram.gov.au](http://www.nationbuildingprogram.gov.au)
  - 1a) and b) The Australian Government contribution for the measures in the Nation Building Program are capped to the amount provided for in the programs.
- 2) and 3) As outlined at [www.nationbuildingprogram.gov.au](http://www.nationbuildingprogram.gov.au)
- 4) a) As outlined at [www.nationbuildingprogram.gov.au](http://www.nationbuildingprogram.gov.au)
- 5) In its June 2010 report Infrastructure Australia identified its investment priorities. The report can be found at [http://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/files/Report to COAG 2010.pdf](http://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/files/Report_to_COAG_2010.pdf)
- 6) a) The Department has not made any recommendations to COAG or PM&C concerning project interventions.
  - b) There have been no cost over-runs or additional costs to taxpayers, but minor changes to project scope and timing have been made during the course of managing all projects.



**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

- 7) The Office of the Coordinator General (OCG) is responsible for monitoring projects initiated under the Economic Stimulus Plan (ESP). The Department provides regular reports to the OCG including the status of projects and programs. The OCG has released two public reports, these are available at <http://www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au/pages/theplan.aspx>
- 8) No.
- 9) No. This question should be directed to the Treasury Department.
- 10) and 11) Not aware of any such issues.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 29

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Status of Projects

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

Specific Project Delivery – Rail Projects

- 1) Was the Department consulted on the Epping to Parramatta rail link before it was announced by the Prime Minister during the election campaign?
  - a) Had the Department conducted any cost-benefit analysis or financial costings of the Epping to Parramatta rail link before it was announced?
- 2) What is the status of the Hunter Valley Liverpool Range New Rail Alignment project?
  - a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
  - b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
  - c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?
- 3) What is the status of the Regional Rail Express in Victoria project?
  - a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
  - b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
  - c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?
- 4) What is the status of the Gold Coast Light Rail project?
  - a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
  - b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
  - c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?
- 5) What is the status of the Noarlunga to Seaford Rail Extension project?
  - a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
  - b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
  - c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?
- 6) What is the status of the East-West Rail Tunnel project?
  - a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
  - b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
  - c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?
- 7) What is the status of the Northbridge Rail Link project?
  - a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
  - b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
  - c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?
- 8) What is the status of the West Metro project?
  - a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
  - b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

- c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?
- 9) What is the status of the Brisbane Inner City Rail study?
  - a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
  - b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
  - c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?

**Answer:**

- 1) The project proposal was among a range of investment proposals considered in discussions between the Minister and the Department.
  - a) No
- 2) The Hunter Valley: Liverpool Range New Rail Alignment project is in the planning and industry consultation stage.
  - a) As part of the \$1.2 billion Nation Building Economic Stimulus Package investment into the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), \$580 million was provided to facilitate six rail projects in the Hunter Valley costing over \$798 million. The Liverpool Range New Rail Alignment project is one of these.
  - b) Yes.
  - c) Yes.
- 3) Regional Rail Link – early works began in August 2009 with the commencement of construction of platforms 15 and 16 at Southern Cross Station. Construction works are also under way at West Werribee Junction. Three of the four major work packages have been released to market with responses due before the end of 2010. The other major work package will be released in early 2011.
  - a) \$392 million.
  - b) Yes.
  - c) Yes.
- 4) Gold Coast Rapid Transit – Construction activities associated with the package of early and enabling work have commenced while the procurement of the public private partnership for the main construction works and the operation of the light rail system are underway.
  - a) \$365 million.
  - b) Yes.
  - c) Yes.
- 5) The Noarlunga to Seaford Rail Extension project is under construction.
  - a) \$18.0 million
  - b) Yes.
  - c) Yes.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

- 6) East West Rail Tunnel – the project involves pre–construction planning, design and engineering works for the East West Rail Tunnel with a submission to be delivered to Infrastructure Australia in early 2011
  - a) Nil.
  - b) Yes.
  - c) Yes.
  
- 7) Forward works are underway for the lowering of the Perth-Fremantle railway line
  - a) \$7 million.
  - b) The project is running to the schedule and budget included in The HUB Master Plan of March 2010.
  - c) Yes.
  
- 8) West Metro – the project has been postponed indefinitely
  - a) \$91 million had been paid out by the Australian Government; \$82.66 million has now been repaid by the NSW Government.
  - b) Not applicable.
  - c) Yes.
  
- 9) Brisbane Cross River Rail – the Queensland Government has released the reference design for the Cross River Rail and is seeking community feedback.
  - a) \$20 million.
  - b) The study has been delayed as a result of an expansion in the scope of the study and it is now on track to be completed by March 2011. The total cost has increased by \$5 million and this will be met in full by the Queensland Government.
  - c) Yes.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 30

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Port Projects

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

Specific Project Delivery – Port Projects

- 1) What is the status of the Oakajee Port Common User Facilities project?
  - a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
  - b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
  - c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?
- 2) What is the status of the Brisbane Inner City Rail study?
  - a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
  - b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
  - c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?

**Answer:**

- 1) The Australian Government has made provision for a possible equity contribution to the common user facilities at the proposed Oakajee Port pending a recommendation by Infrastructure Australia, negotiations with the Western Australian Government (as project proponent) and the establishment of an appropriate equity vehicle. Discussions between Infrastructure Australia and the Western Australian Government are continuing and no recommendations have yet been made to the Australian Government in relation to this project.
- 2) The Queensland Government has released the reference design for the Brisbane Cross River Rail and is seeking community feedback.
  - a) \$20 million.
  - b) The study has been delayed as a result of an expansion in the scope of the study and it is now on track to be completed by March 2011. The total cost has increased by \$5 million and this will be met in full by the Queensland Government.
  - c) Yes.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question No.:** NB-II 31

**Division/Agency:** Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Status of projects and overall budget

**Hansard Page/s:** Written Question

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

Specific Project Delivery – Road Projects

- 1) What is the status of the Pacific Highway – Bulahdelah Bypass project?
  - a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
  - b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
  - c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?
- 2) What is the status of the Darwin Port Expansion project?
  - a) How much has the Commonwealth expended to date on this project?
  - b) Is the project running to schedule and within budget?
  - c) Has the Department and Minister been provided with any advice as to the status and progress of this project?
- 3) Are there any programs within your portfolio that are likely to exceed their current budget. If yes, please provide details (for example a demand driven program that has had higher than anticipated take up).
- 4) Are there any programs within your portfolio that are likely to under spend their current budget. If yes, please provide details (for example a demand driven program that has had higher than anticipated take up).

**Answer:**

- 1) Early works commenced in December 2009 and major construction commenced in August 2010. The project is expected to be completed in late 2012.
  - a) \$87.8 million has been paid.
  - b) Yes. The project is running to a revised schedule developed in early 2010, minimum six months delay due to resolution of Aboriginal Heritage issues.
  - c) Yes. Project progress is monitored by the Department in a number of ways including:
    - monthly progress reports;
    - teleconferences;
    - written project updates including project proposal reports; and
    - onsite visits.

The Minister is regularly advised of project progress.

- 2) The Australian Government has made provision for a possible equity contribution to the Darwin Port Expansion project pending a recommendation by Infrastructure Australia, negotiations with the Northern Territory Government (as project proponent) and the establishment of an appropriate equity vehicle. Negotiations between

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

**Infrastructure and Transport**

Infrastructure Australia and the Northern Territory Government are continuing and no recommendations have yet been made to the Australian Government in relation to this project.

- 3 & 4) Budget allocations for 2010-11 under the Outcome 1 programs are on track to be fully spent. Budgets established under these programs are not demand driven, and are tied to meet predetermined commitments made by the Australian Government. Expenditure outcomes cannot exceed budgeted funding levels except by Government decisions accompanied by increases in appropriations through the legislative process, such as the annual budgetary process.