

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2011

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 50

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Bruce Highway works between Ayr and Townsville

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 9 (18/10/11)

**Senator MACDONALD asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** I know how efficient and how good your department is. I know how generous the Commonwealth is with the states, but it irks me when roads are in an appalling state. As a Queensland senator, I think my colleagues will excuse me if I refer to Queensland and the Bruce Highway. Every time the Bruce Highway is mentioned it is always the Commonwealth's fault. The state minister always blames the Commonwealth. I know that is not right, but I am simply seeking some information from you that would allow me to protect your department and to protect the minister's government against these outrageous allegations from the Queensland minister, who has a penchant for this. As an exercise, the road between Ayr and Townsville last year was subject to five different sets of road works at one time, which makes it hell, I might say, for the travelling public, stopping five times in an hour and waiting for five to 10 minutes for lights to change. Anyhow, that is beside the point. Last year those road works were done and this financial year there are another three, and again with the Queensland government's road management arrangements travelling that hour from Ayr to Townsville you stop at three different sets of roadsides. That is nothing you have any control over, unfortunately. As a sort of snapshot example, could you just explain to me the funding arrangements in those instances? It is a fairly confined piece of work. It does not include Vantassel road, which I do not think has been started yet. What I really want to know is what the arrangements are—who is contributing how much, when your money went in, what the time lines were, when you first said that money would be available, when the work was done and when the final accounting was done?

**Mr Mrdak:** We can do that. I will see if we can answer it at the table. Otherwise we are happy to take that on notice and come back to you as soon as we can.

**Mr Jagers:** We might take that on notice

**Answer:**

The Australian Government is investing a record \$2.8 billion on the Bruce Highway that includes \$440 million to fund safety works. This involves construction of new overtaking lanes and rest areas and works to target known crash black spots. Six of the safety projects are located between Home Hill and Townsville and are being undertaken progressively through to 2013-14.

Additionally, works in Ayr and Brandon, being undertaken as part of the fully Australian Government funded \$25 million Burdekin Road Safety Audit Nation Building project, have recently commenced. These works are expected to be completed in late 2012.

There are also likely to be projects being funded on this section of the highway through the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements as well as routine maintenance works.

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**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 51

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Roads in the north-west of Western Australia

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 32 (18/10/11)

**Senator EGGLESTON asked:**

**Senator EGGLESTON:** Thank you. I am very familiar with those road upgrades around Port Hedland. Port Hedland already has a very good road system. You said nothing about the bridges north of Broome—that is a major area that needs addressing—nor anything about the specific issue which the member for Durack has raised on this Bindi Bindi stretch, which is an area of real concern because there will be a fatality there. I would be very interested to hear about that and, in general, what your role is as the Manager of North West Roads, because I did not know we had such a position. Please tell us what your brief is.

**Mr Mrdak:** Perhaps I might start. In relation to the position on those roads you mentioned to the north-west, we are happy to take on notice any such matters. We are currently in the process of working with Western Australia, as Mr Jagers outlined, on the future investments in the national investment program. We are not familiar with and do not have any proposals in relation to those bridges or that road you mentioned on behalf of Mr Haase, but I am happy to take that on notice and come back to you with any information that we may glean from the state of Western Australia in relation to their plans. I will ask Mr Pittar to outline—

**Answer:**

The Department and Infrastructure Australia (IA) are consulting state and territory governments, including the Western Australian Government, on potential road and rail projects for consideration in any future infrastructure investment program. Future decisions about which projects to fund will take into account advice from states and territories and IA.

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**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 52

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Unsealed road between Wiluna and Meekatharra

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 34 (18/10/11)

**Senator LUDLAM asked:**

**Senator LUDLAM:** Regarding the road stretch that Senator Eggleston was referring to, I wonder whether you are aware that between Wiluna and Meekatharra a stretch of the key freight route between Kalgoorlie and the north-west coast is actually still dirt; it has not even yet been paved. To your knowledge has a proposal ever come forward from the Western Australian government for sealing that very dangerous stretch?

**Ms O'Connell:** I will have to take that on notice and get back to you.

**Answer:**

The Goldfields Highway between Wiluna and Meekatharra is not part of the National Land Transport Network and is a Western Australian Government responsibility. The Department has not received a request for funding for this highway.

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**Question no.:** 53

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Upgrades to the Bruce Highway

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 34-35 (18/10/11)

**Senator MACDONALD asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** Have there been any requests from the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads for funding for flood-proofing upgrades to the Bruce Highway at Goorganga Plains near Proserpine, at Sandy Gully near Bowen and at Yellow Gin Creek near Home Hill? Can anyone tell me that easily?

**Ms O'Connell:** We will have to take that on notice.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** Please don't give me a web site.

**Ms O'Connell:** No, we won't.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** Please say whether there is or isn't. I am also interested in any application for safety upgrades on the Haughton River bridge and whether there has been allocation of federal funding for those particular projects.

**Mr Jagers:** We'll come back to you. It's possible that there could be black spot projects on that road that we don't have listed in front of us. But also funding through the NDRRA flood reconstruction work could be in those locations as well, so we'll need to check with Regional Australia.

**Answer:**

The Department has not received any requests from the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads for funding for works on the Bruce Highway at Goorganga Plains near Proserpine, at Sandy Gully near Bowen, at Yellow Gin Creek near Home Hill or at the Haughton River Bridge.

There are National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) projects identified for the sections of the Bruce Highway near Goorganga Plains, Sandy Gully, Yellow Gin Creek and the Haughton River.

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**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 54

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Cooroy to Curra Section of the Bruce Highway

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 36-37 (18/10/2011)

**Senator IAN MACDONALD asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** In question 71 I asked a series of relatively detailed questions on the Cooroy to Curra section of the highway—in fact, 25 in all—and I was told in answer: The Government will make announcements about future investment as part of future budgets. What does that mean? For example, question 25 was:

25) Has any land acquisition taken place in the last 12 months? If so, how many properties and in which suburbs are these properties?

The answer is:

The Government will make announcements about future investment as part of future budgets. We were praising you for getting these answers in, but that is not an answer to the question I asked. Is it possible to get answers to question 71?

**Mr Mrdak:** We will take that on notice, if you do not mind. I think the government's answer reflects that they are currently considering future investments in Cooroy to Curra as part of the consideration of the nation building program going forward. But I will certainly take on notice whether we can provide any more information on behalf of the government in relation to those questions you have asked.

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** Thank you. I also asked:

I understand that further information was received from the Queensland Government in April 2011. On what date was this information received?

I do not think the government is going to get up and make an announcement about that. These are relevant—and they may be relevant in other states—to me as a representative of Queensland, because, again, I think the Commonwealth is being poorly done by for all the good work it is doing, and I am trying to just assess when you did things and when Queensland has not. Certainly that answer does not help me do that. If you are under instruction from the minister simply not to answer questions, please give that answer. Say, 'The minister has instructed us not to answer these,' and we will take that up elsewhere. But if that is the department's work, and I have a suspicion that it is not, it is not much of a response. To question 72, again, the answer is:

See question 71.

The answer to question 71 says:

The Government will make announcements about future investment ...

**Mr Mrdak:** Again, Senator, I will take that on notice to see what additional information we may be able to provide.

**Answer:**

The Australian Government has committed \$200 million towards the Bruce Highway (Cooroy to Curra) project for planning and land acquisition. The Government will continue to work in partnership with the Queensland Government to deliver this commitment.

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**Question no.:** 55

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Funding Commitment for Cycling and Active Transport

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 42 (18/10/11)

**Senator LUDLAM asked:**

**Senator LUDLAM:** Minister, can I throw to you—it will have to be on behalf of the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport—the question of whether there is consideration by the government in the next budget cycle to include a stand-alone funding commitment for cycling and active transport?

**Senator Carr:** That is something I will have to take on notice. Clearly, I am not familiar with the detail of the budget bids that are being made at the moment, nor for that matter would I be able to comment, even if I were. I will ask the minister for a response.

**Answer:**

Any funding commitments will be announced by the Government on Budget Night 2012.

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**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 56

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Identified employment outcomes in the Infrastructure Employment Projects program.

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 46 (18/10/11)

**Senator NASH asked:**

**Senator NASH:** I am sure you do. What evidence does the department have that those jobs were created in that immediate environment? It says here that it was supposed to create immediate jobs in communities. What evidence does the department have that those immediate jobs were created? I am sure there was some tracking of this program.

**Mr Mrdak:** As part of the government's tracking of the fiscal stimulus, the government is on record as setting out what it believes has been the employment creation as a result of the whole range of fiscal stimulus programs. On these individual ones, as I said about a number of those communities, they are important projects. They are putting confidence into the local business community as well as providing immediate jobs in construction and ongoing jobs in a number of situations. A number of projects provide ongoing employment in a number of locations.

**Senator NASH:** On notice, can you provide the committee with the identified jobs that the department has on record as a result of the spend?

**Mr Mrdak:** Certainly.

**Answer:**

The ANAO Report notes on page 204 that the Department of Infrastructure and Transport advised the Minister that the 12 projects approved to date, were expected to create, or retain 950 jobs, 37 work experience positions and 42 traineeships. There are a further two projects, Cairns Entertainment Centre and Essendon Sporting and Community Hub that were still under assessment at the time of the Report.

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**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 57

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Infrastructure Employment Projects (IEP) that did not proceed and employment outcomes

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 46 (18/10/11)

**Senator NASH asked:**

**Senator NASH:** I do not have a problem with that, but there is normally a process that goes with those types of things. In this instance, I understand the government wanted to try and create some jobs so there was not the normal application type of process. But for longer term structural programs like this there would be an expectation from taxpayers that there would be an appropriate application process. From time to time we do not have one. The government has a bit of a track record on this. With Better Regions we saw every single one of those was an election commitment. Again, there was no application process for the Better Regions Program. There seems to be a developing strain here leading from the government side rather than letting an appropriate application process take place.

**Mr Mrdak:** We would be very happy to take on notice the jobs issue and also the value for money considerations, which we did look at quite closely and which the ANAO comments on in their report on the program administration.

**Senator NASH:** Of the 19 that were sent down by the minister to the department for assessment against the guidelines—and obviously I understand there might be confidentiality issues—can you give us, perhaps on a case basis without referring to any component, the reasons why those did not make it through the assessment process?

**Mr Mrdak:** We can do that. The ANAO listed those in some detail in the report, but let us come back to it.

**Senator NASH:** That would make it easy for you to send them to me. The other thing is the assessment against the guidelines. I am assuming that the guidelines that you had for this program are easily accessible for the committee.

**Mr Mrdak:** We can provide those.

**Senator NASH:** Thank you. I know you said you were going to take the jobs figures on notice, but can you give us a ballpark figure, out of those 14 projects, roughly how many permanent jobs are being created?

**Mr Mrdak:** I am reminded that the audit report includes some figures. Let us get those as quickly as we can for you.

**Senator NASH:** All right. If you would not mind, when you are providing those figures could you break them down into the short-term jobs relating to those projects and longer term employment?

**Mr Mrdak:** Certainly.

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**Answer:**

**Infrastructure Employment Projects (IEP) proposals that did not proceed**

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Details</b>
MA Noble Stand Redevelopment	The proponents did not proceed with the proposal when funding from other sources was not secured.
Mount Panorama Phase 2 Redevelopment	The project did not proceed to a full assessment.
Wilcannia Business Hub	The project was assessed as being unable to meet the requirements of the IEP Program Guidelines.
Adelaide City Women's Football Club Clubrooms	The proponent secured funding from the South Australian Government.
Cloncurry Community Precinct	IEP funding not approved. The project is now being funded under a separate single project Administered program.

**Employment outcomes**

Refer to the Department's response to Question 56.

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**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 58

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Deferred Funding from O’Bahn City Access Project

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 51 (18/10/11)

**Senator EDWARDS asked:**

**Senator EDWARDS:** Okay. Five million dollars evaporated by virtue of the funding being withdrawn. Do we ever expect to get some benefit from the work that was carried out using that \$5 million? If so, about how much in monetary terms?

**Mr Mrdak:** The answer that Mr Wood's given is that there has not been a vanishing or an evaporation. The work that has been undertaken will continue to be used by the South Australian agencies in relation to their traffic planning for the CBD. It is all of value.

**Senator EDWARDS:** Okay. Are you able to report back and quantify what will be of use in the future and that has been extinguished in value?

**Mr Mrdak:** We will certainly take that on notice and see what further detail that you can provide you with.

**Answer:**

The funding expended went towards a detailed planning process including extensive traffic and bus modelling in the City of Adelaide. Results of the planning will be utilised by the City of Adelaide in achieving its vision for a more sustainable City in which public transport is given higher priority. The results of the planning will also be utilised by the SA Government in implementing Adelaide’s 30 Year Plan and its Strategic Infrastructure Plan.

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**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 59

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Mining related infrastructure projects in New South Wales

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 51-52 (18/10/11)

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

**Senator RHIANNON:** How many mining related infrastructure projects are currently on your books for New South Wales? I am happy for you to take that on notice. I am interested in a list of the names and a brief description of them and how much money that you have allocated for them.

**Mr Mrdak:** We can certainly provide you the details. As Mr Wood outlined, the Australian Rail Track Corporation, which is the Commonwealth's investment vehicle in the Hunter Valley rail line, has a range of capital works programs underway. We can certainly provide you with details about those.

**Senator RHIANNON:** I am not just interested in rail projects. Do you have any involvement in any of these port plans or some of the bridges that they come up with or anything else?

**Mr Mrdak:** We certainly have a major project in the Hunter, which is the Hunter Expressway, and we have a number of rail projects. They are the projects in which we have an investment interest in the Hunter at the moment. We do not have an investment program or any projects in relation to the Port Waratah or any of the other Hunter maritime issues.

**Senator RHIANNON:** So in terms of the benefits to the coal industry, it comes down to your rail and road projects?

**Mr Mrdak:** Certainly, and principally our investment through ARTC into increasing the capacity of the Hunter Valley coal system.

**Senator RHIANNON:** And you will be able to quantify the specific coal related projects in terms of the monetary cost?

**Mr Mrdak:** We can certainly provide you with the amount that the Commonwealth has invested in ARTC in terms of the Hunter Valley.

**Answer:**

The Department of Infrastructure and Transport is contributing funding to seven infrastructure projects in New South Wales that may benefit the mining sector.

Hunter Valley Rail Projects

The rail projects were funded under the Australian Government's Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan. The Government has contributed \$580 million through an equity injection into the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) to facilitate its implementation of an \$884.8 million package of projects on the Hunter Valley rail network. While the Hunter Valley rail network also serves non-mining related freight and passenger rail operations, the ARTC investment is predominantly aimed at improving the capacity and performance of the track for coal mining related activity. The projects include:

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- *Bidirectional Signalling between Maitland and Branxton (\$40 million)*
- *Minimbah Bank Third Rail Line (\$114 million)*
- *St Heliers to Muswellbrook Duplication (\$27 million)*
- *Ulan Line Passing Loops and Duplication (\$57 million)*
- *Minimbah to Maitland Third Rail (\$362.8 million)*
- *Liverpool Range Capacity Enhancements (\$284 million)*

Hunter Valley Road Project – Hunter Expressway

The Hunter Expressway project will provide 40km of new dual carriageway between the F3 and the New England Highway near Branxton.

The Australian Government has committed \$1.5 billion towards the Hunter Expressway from the Nation Building Program and the NSW Government has committed \$200 million.

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**Question no.:** 60

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Funding Deferred for the Queensland Recovery

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 52 (18/10/11)

**Senator NASH asked:**

**Senator NASH:** How many projects had money deferred to the Queensland flood recovery? Do you have a list of those?

**Ms O'Connell:** We can certainly get that for you.

**Senator NASH:** Is that something that you have with you?

**Mr Mrdak:** These are the five that have now been reinstated. There was an initial deferral of five projects. In the budget this year those projects, as a result of some savings that had been realised in other parts of the Queensland program, have been reinstated.

**Senator NASH:** So all the funding that had previously been announced is deferred for the Queensland recovery.

**Mr Mrdak:** If we are talking about those five Queensland projects, then yes.

**Senator NASH:** Are there any others across the country for which it was deferred? So far we have the five Queensland ones. There were a number of others around the country as well—is that correct?

**Ms O'Connell:** We have already mentioned the South Australian O-Bahn project.

**Senator NASH:** I do not want them piecemeal; I want them in a bunch.

**Mr Mrdak:** There was rephasing of two rail projects—the North Sydney freight corridor project and the Victorian Regional Rail Link project.

**Senator NASH:** What has happened with those? Is it the same issue as for Queensland? Have they been reinstated?

**Ms O'Connell:** No. The phasing stays as it was. It was a rephasing of the commitment.

**Senator NASH:** Do you want to take that on notice, or do you have it?

**Mr Mrdak:** We will certainly take it on notice and give you the full details, but that essentially is the picture in relation to all of the rephasing.

**Senator NASH:** And perhaps you could also put in any time delays that have occurred from the rephasing or that will occur from the rephasing, and from that period of delay when it was reconfigured for a while and then reinstated. That would be great.

**Mr Mrdak:** Certainly.

**Answer:**

Details of deferred projects are contained in Budget Paper No.2.

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**Question no.:** 61

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** F3 to Sydney Orbital Study

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator Edwards asked:**

With reference to Budget Paper No. 2 p.268 in relation to the deferral of funds from the F3 to Sydney Orbital feasibility study.

1. How much has been deferred from this project?
2. Has the budgeted amount been allocated to another project?
3. If not, why not? If so which project(s)?
4. Which financial year will the money be paid in?
5. Was the NSW Government consulted prior to this decision being made? If not, why not? If so, when was this undertaken? What did this consultation involve?

**Answer:**

1. \$150 million has been deferred from this project until 2015-16.
2. No.
3. Savings from this measure have been redirected to support other Australian Government priorities.
4. 2015-16.
5. The NSW Government was consulted prior to the 2011-12 Budget.

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**Question no.:** 62

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Funding Deferred For The Regional Rail Link Project

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator Edwards asked:**

With reference to Budget Paper No. 2 p.269 in relation to the deferral of funds from the Victorian Regional Rail Link.

1. How much will be deferred from this project?
2. How much will be deferred for each of the forward estimates?
3. Do you know what this money has been reallocated to?
4. If yes, what project(s)? If not, why not?
5. Are you aware of cost blow-out projections for the Regional Rail Link of anywhere between \$700,000-\$1 billion?
6. What affect will this delay in funds have on the proposed completion date of the project?
7. Was the Victorian Government consulted prior to the announcement earlier this year that the funding would be deferred?
8. If not, why not? If yes, when was this undertaken?
9. What did this consultation involve?

**Answer:**

- 1-4 The Australian Government deferred \$500 million for the Regional Rail Link project into 2015-16 as outlined in Budget Paper No.2 to assist in rebuilding the flood affected regions in Queensland.
- 5 The total Commonwealth funding to the project remains capped at \$3.225 billion.
- 6 The Australian Government does not consider that there will be any affect on the completion date.
- 7-8. Yes.
9. This is a matter for the Australian and Victorian governments.

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**Question no.:** 63

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Deferral of Funds from the Princes Highway East Project

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator Edwards asked:**

With reference to Budget Paper No. 2 p.269 in relation to the deferral of funds from the Princes Highway East project.

1. How much has been deferred from this project?
2. How much will be deferred for each of the forward estimates?
3. Do you know what this money has been reallocated to?
4. If yes, what project? If not, why not?
5. Was the Victorian Government consulted prior to the announcement earlier this year that the funding would be deferred?
6. If not, why not? If yes, when was this undertaken? What did it involve?

**Answer:**

- 1-4 The Australian Government deferred \$20 million for the Princes Highway East project into 2015-16 as outlined in Budget Paper No.2 to assist in the rebuilding flood affected regions in Queensland.
5. Yes.
6. Respective Ministers agreed to this in February 2011.

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**Question no.:** 64

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Pacific Highway.

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator Williams asked:**

1. Can you give an update on your negotiations with the NSW government in relation to the Pacific Highway.
2. Can you give me an outline as to how you determine what speed restriction is appropriate to maintain safety outcomes?
3. Can you please provide updated statistics on the percentage of the Pacific Highway that has now been duplicated and percentage still to be duplicated? As well, as the length in kilometres still to be duplicated and already duplicated.
4. Given the funding shortfall and the length of time construction had taken to date, how is 2016 completion of the duplication achievable?
5. In order for the Pacific Highway duplication to be completed by 2016 significant funds will have to be made available. Would you agree?
6. Presumably future works on the Pacific Highway duplication will have to come from the Nation Building 2 package. What is the progress work on the Nation Building 2 package in determining its length of time and how much in funding will be available?

**Answer:**

- 1, 4, 5, 6. The Australian Government is investing a record \$4.1 billion to upgrade the Pacific Highway and is in negotiations with the NSW Government on future funding arrangements to complete the duplication by 2016, an objective shared by both Governments.
2. Speed limits are a matter for the NSW Government.
3. As at 1 November 2011, 51 per cent has been duplicated with an additional 12 per cent either under construction or about to commence construction.

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**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 65

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Road Funding 2011-12 to 2014-15 under Nation Building programs

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

What is the total expenditure or expected expenditure on **roads** for each of the financial years 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 from the Nation Building Programme and Nation Building 2 Programme?

**Answer:**

Refer to Question 39.

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**Question no.:** 66

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Rail Funding 2011-12 to 2014-15 under Nation Building programs

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

What is the total expenditure or expected expenditure on **rail** for each of the financial years 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 from the Nation Building Programme and Nation Building 2 Programme?

**Answer:**

Refer to Question 40.

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**Question no.:** 67

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Nation Building Program Expenditure by State and Electorate

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

Please provide a table of the expenditure from the Nation Building Programme by state and electorate.

**Answer:**

Information on the Nation Building Program is contained on the Nation Building website.

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**Question no.:** 68

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Regional Infrastructure Fund Expenditure by State and Electorate.

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

Please provide a table of the expenditure from the Regional Infrastructure Fund by state and electorate.

**Answer:**

A list of projects committed under the Regional Infrastructure Fund is available on the Nation Building website.

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**Question no.:** 69

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Parramatta to Epping Rail Link – Funding Allocation

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

In light of the item in MYEFO 2010-11 to provide \$2.08 million over four years to construct the Parramatta-Epping Rail Link from 2014-15 under the Nation Building 2 Program, can the Department confirm if funding has been allocated towards this project within the current forward estimates period?

If so, what amount is allocated within each year and to perform what functions?

**Answer:**

Project details for the Parramatta-Epping Rail Link as outlined in the Intergovernmental Agreement with NSW is available on the Nation Building website.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2011

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 70

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Parramatta to Epping Rail Link – MYEFO 2010-11 Projects

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

Is the Department aware that, of the eight projects listed in MYEFO 2010-11 under the Nation Building 2 Program, the Parramatta-Epping Rail Link was the only project not to be mentioned again in the 2011-12 Budget Papers?

If so, can the Department explain why the Parramatta-Epping Rail Link was not mentioned in the 2011-12 Budget?

**Answer:**

Seven of the eight projects relate to deferral of funding of Nation Building 1 projects as part of the Government's response to the flood events in early 2011. The Government has allocated a provision in the forward estimates for the Parramatta to Epping Rail Link project as part of the Nation Building 2 program.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2011

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 71

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Parramatta to Epping Rail Link – Completion of Construction

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

Can the Department confirm they are working towards the completion of construction of the Parramatta-Epping Rail Link by end of 2017/18 as per the item in MYEFO 2010-11 under the Nation Building 2 Program?

**Answer:**

Commitment to the Parramatta to Epping Rail Link is for completion by 2017-18. This is dependent on the NSW Government's commitment to the project.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2011  
**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 72

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Parramatta to Epping Rail Link – Feasibility Study

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

Has the Department commenced or planned to commence a feasibility study or cost-benefit analysis towards the roll-out of the Parramatta-Epping Rail Link project?

If so, when will these documents be made publicly available?

**Answer:**

Refer to Question 71.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2011

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 73

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Parramatta to Epping Rail Link - Assessments

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

Has the Department performed any assessments regarding requirements for the compulsory acquisition of housing for the Parramatta-Epping Rail Link?

If so, how many houses does the Department expect they will need to compulsorily acquire in order to perform full construction of the Parramatta-Epping Rail Link and when will these assessments be made publicly available?

**Answer:**

Compulsory acquisitions, if required, will be undertaken by the NSW Government.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2011

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 74

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (NB-II) Nation Building - Infrastructure Investment

**Topic:** Parramatta to Epping Rail Link – Discussions with Infrastructure Australia

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

Has the Department been involved with discussions with the Minister, the Minister's office, or Infrastructure Australia regarding the intended steps if the NSW Government does not commit to contribute funding towards the Parramatta-Epping Rail Link?

If so, what are the outcomes of these discussions?

**Answer:**

Refer to Question 71.