

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Budget Estimates February 2009  
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

**Question No.:** NTS 01

**Division/Agency:** National Transport Strategy

**Topic:** Urban Mobility

**Hansard Pages:** Written Question

**Senator Williams asked:**

Australia is the only OECD country that does not have a national moving people strategy. When is the Government going to do something about this?

**Answer:**

The Government considers that all forms of transport have a role to play in moving people and freight, especially within our major cities. It is essential that an efficient road and rail network, supported by a robust public transport system, co-exist in a way that support each other to make our cities more sustainable and liveable. The Australian Government is committed to working with the states and territories, the providers of public transport, to achieve greater use of all forms of public transport, thereby contributing to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and congestion in our major cities.

The Government recognises that the Commonwealth was absent from urban policy development over the last 12 years and that this has had an impact on the productivity and sustainability of our urban areas.

The Government has established the Major Cities Unit to bring a coordinated and integrated approach to urban policy development. The Major Cities Unit is leading a whole of government response by the Commonwealth to contribute to outcomes that improve the sustainability, livability and productivity of the major cities in Australia. The Major Cities Unit is working closely with Infrastructure Australia to contribute expertise on urban infrastructure issues, including public transport.