

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates February 2013

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 130

**Program:** n/a

**Division/Agency:** (ARTC) Australian Rail Track Corporation

**Topic:** Upper Yarraman Creek Floodplain Management Plan

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 15 (12/02/13)

**Senator WILLIAMS asked:**

**Senator WILLIAMS:** Yes, it would be. But it is a serious problem. In 2006 the catchment management authority's Upper Yarraman Catchment Plan recommended to the ARTC that the culverts be replaced and upgraded, but this was ignored. You are not aware of that debate?

**Mr Fullerton:** I think it may be one that I am aware of. I would need to look further into it. I do know we have been having some discussions in relation to those complaints with New South Wales, who are the owner of the asset. Of course we are no longer responsible for the maintenance of that network but that was a matter that was raised when we were in control of it. I can take that on notice and look further into it if you like, Senator.

**Answer:**

ARTC notes that the Upper Yarraman Creek Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) only specifically refers to Rail Infrastructure Corporation in allocating responsibilities for the implementation of the FMP. ARTC personnel are in the process of meeting with the landowners affected by the Yarraman Creek rail culvert and I advise that the relevant culvert has been identified for replacement in ARTC's 2013-14 works.

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates February 2013

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 131

**Program:** n/a

**Division/Agency:** (ARTC) Australian Rail Track Corporation

**Topic:** Conduct of Air Quality Study

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

1. In May 2012 estimates I was advised ARTC was conducting air quality tests. Have those tests started or further tests planned?
2. Have ARTC staff had any discussion with any other government agencies about the growing public concern over the health impacts of coal dust from the coal trains that travel through many Hunter communities?

**Answer:**

1. ARTC completed air quality studies in September 2012.
2. The air quality studies are a requirement of ARTCs Environment Protection Licence with the Office of Environment and Heritage.

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates February 2013

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 132

**Program:** n/a

**Division/Agency:** (ARTC) Australian Rail Track Corporation

**Topic:** ARTC investment in coal rail infrastructure in the Hunter Valley

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

1. In May 2012 Mr Fullerton advised me that the government was planning to invest \$3.5 billion over five years in coal rail infrastructure in the Hunter to support the Newcastle Harbour's fourth coal terminal project.
  - (a) Will any of that money appear in the next budget?
  - (b) Has the planned amount changed?
  - (c) If so Why?

**Answer:**

The funding will be contained within ARTC's forward plans and budgets.