

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 52

Program: N/A

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Project Governance

Proof Hansard Page/s: 25 (12/02/13)

Senator BACK asked:

Senator BACK: Mr Deegan, you will recall—we have had the discussion before—an inquiry conducted by the Senate committee last year into engineering skills shortages in Australia. Evidence was presented by Engineers Australia that we are losing about \$6 billion a year through tendering processes and their sequels not being undertaken correctly. Industry advised me subsequently that they believe the cost of litigation between the parties is also around about \$6 billion a year. You and I have had some discussions about how that could be improved. Are you able to advise the committee of any progress you may have made in terms of models that would reduce or eliminate those losses?

Mr Deegan: Certainly as part of our assessments of projects that are put before Infrastructure Australia we spent considerable time on the deliverability issues to try and pick up those important issues that you have raised. We have a small team working on this and I hope to get an update this Friday, so I do not have it today but it is close at hand.

Answer:

Infrastructure Australia is undertaking further work on issues concerning project governance.

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Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 53

Program: N/A

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Updated business case – QLD Government

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator NASH asked:

1. (a) Is the updated business case provided by the Queensland Government to Infrastructure Australia a public document?
(b) If not, why not?
(c) Is it possible to provide a copy of the updated business case in relation to the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing?
2. I understand that Infrastructure Australia is now working on the detail of the costings in the business case.
(a) What does this involve?
(b) Will this require a determination of possible private sector tolling of the crossing?
(c) Will this recommend a toll cost for heavy vehicles and private cars?

Answer:

The business case for the Toowoomba second range crossing was provided to Infrastructure Australia on a confidential basis. It is a matter for the Queensland Government, as the proponent, to decide whether or not to make the document public.

The Queensland Government has confirmed to Infrastructure Australia its desire that the business case remain confidential.

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Question no.: 54

Program: N/A

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Hume Highway pricing trial

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator NASH asked:

1. In relation to the work that Infrastructure Australia is undertaking on the Hume Highway pricing trial, can you please provide further information on what this involves?
2. What consultation will be involved?
3. When will this work be concluded and recommendations to the Department made?

Answer:

1. Infrastructure Australia is proposing to governments a trial of the use of higher productivity vehicles on the Hume Highway which would involve improvements to this highway, and other costs, funded from operators of those vehicles as distinct from government grants or consolidated funds. It is developing options for consideration by governments and working with Transport for NSW and VicRoads on the matter.
2. Consultation on the development of options is underway with governments, truck operators and their customers, and the community.
3. Infrastructure Australia intends to provide its report to the Government later this year.

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Question no.: 55

Program: N/A

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Bus Services and Long Term Transport Master Plan

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator RHIANNON asked:

1. At the October Estimates it was stated the proposal from Infrastructure NSW to invest in more bus services was being considered. Please outline what Infrastructure Australia has done re buses in NSW?
2. Has the NSW coalition government's Long term Transport Master Plan been considered, and if so what is the agency's response?

Answer:

Infrastructure Australia is preparing an Urban Transit Strategy to deal with these and other issues.