

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 56

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Nation Building 2

Proof Hansard Page/s: 18-19 (12/02/13)

Senator JOYCE asked:

Senator JOYCE: I will just quickly go to Nation Building. I refer to question on notice 93 from the last Senate estimates hearing, which was a detailed question on the Nation Building 2 program and projects from Nation Building 2 which are presently in the contingency reserve fund, and other matters. I received a three-sentence answer which did not address the specific details in the question. Again I refer to the Nation Building 2 program due to commence from 1 July 2014. Can you please provide a list of those projects committed to by the government under the Nation Building 2 program. You might want to take that on notice—or do you have them there?

Mr Mrdak: We are happy to give you that now, Senator, if you like. There is a range of projects which the government has committed to for Nation Building 2. I can just—

Senator JOYCE: I need the funding profile where applicable too, please.

Mr Mrdak: The funding profile is being settled for many of these projects. Nation Building 2 is currently being considered in the current budget, so the funding profiles—hence the reference to the contingency reserve, because while there are notional amounts in the forward estimates the settling of the program is yet to take place and will take place in this budget process. We can certainly provide you on notice a list of the commitments that have been made to this point. Details of the program, as I say, are now under budget consideration.

Senator JOYCE: If we provide them on notice, if they are at your disposal and at your fingertips how soon on notice can we get them rather than you dictating them all?

Mr Jagers: All of the projects where the government has made commitments in the Nation Building 2 period are detailed on the website.

Senator JOYCE: So if I went through these and asked for a year by year funding profile, would that be available on the website? I will tell you the projects and you can tell me whether I can get a financial year by year funding profile for these. Inland rail pre-construction?

Mr Mrdak: I can give you that now if you like. The inland rail project is currently \$30 million for 2014-15—

Senator NASH: Is that phased?

Mr Mrdak: Currently phased, sorry. The \$300 million at this stage for inland rail is \$30 million in 2014-15, 30 million in 2015-16 and then \$120 million—

Ms O'Connell: That is the forward estimates.

Mr Mrdak: That is the forward estimates.

Senator NASH: Can you just take on notice for us exactly what those funding amounts are for in those forward estimates—those figures of \$30 million?

Mr Mrdak: We can certainly do that for some of them. Some of them have yet to be finalised but we certainly will provide—

Senator NASH: Where it is not finalised, can you indicate that?

Mr Mrdak: Some of those will be finalised in this year's budget process.

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Answer:

In the recent Budget, the Government announced the next tranche of projects in the Nation Building 2 Program. A full list of these projects can be found on the Department's website.

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Question no.: 57

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Nation Building 2 – Inland Rail

Proof Hansard Page/s: 18-19 (12/02/13)

Senator NASH asked:

Senator NASH: Can you just take on notice for us exactly what those funding amounts are for in those forward estimates—those figures of \$30 million?

Mr Mrdak: We can certainly do that for some of them. Some of them have yet to be finalised but we certainly will provide—

Senator NASH: Where it is not finalised, can you indicate that?

Mr Mrdak: Some of those will be finalised in this year's budget process.

Answer:

- 1-2. The Australian Government committed \$300 million to begin preconstruction work on the inland railway in 2014. Of this, \$30 million is to be released in 2014-15. An approach will be agreed prior to the funds becoming available.

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Question no.: 58

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Nation Building 2 – Contingency Reserve

Proof Hansard Page/s: 19-20

Senator Joyce asked:

The government has not has not finalised detailed funding for the Nation Building 2 program' is one of the quotes from the minister. The following nine projects—I just want to clarify if these are in the contingency reserve or if they are not. Inland rail pre-construction?

Mr Mrdak: I believe that is already profiled in the forward estimates.

Senator JOYCE: Parramatta–Epping rail link?

Mr Mrdak: I think that remains in contingency.

Ms O'Connell: I think we will have to take on notice the separation between those that are in contingency and those that are not.

Senator JOYCE: I need to know whether these programs are in the contingency reserve or not.

Ms O'Connell: Okay, and we will come back.

Senator JOYCE: Inland rail, Parramatta to Epping rail link, Moreton Bay rail link, Richmond Bridge, Princes Highway West, Great Eastern Highway, Tasman Highway, Legacy Way Northern Tunnel link and F3 Sydney orbital.

Ms O'Connell: We will come back to you on that.

Senator JOYCE: I also need to know the current status of negotiations with state and territory governments in relation to these programs. You might be able to tell me that now.

Mr Mrdak: Certainly, Senator. The states and territories have provided submissions to Infrastructure Australia and to the government in relation to these projects. We are in the process of discussions at this stage. As I said, a number of these decisions will be in this year's budget process.

Senator JOYCE: How much in the contingency reserve fund is earmarked for Nation Building 2?

Mr Mrdak: At this stage Budget Paper No. 2 does contain some estimates of forward funding for Nation Building. I would be happy to provide that to you on notice.

Senator JOYCE: So if we are uncertain of the size of the program—there have been discussions about cuts in that program. How are we going to cut money from a program we do not actually know the size of?

Mr Mrdak: As I say, there are budget decisions yet to be taken in relation to the overall size of the Nation Building 2 program. At the moment as set out in the budget papers there are forward estimates in relation to commitments to date, and we can certainly provide those. But obviously the government is yet to take critical decisions around the overall shape and size of the program.

Answer:

Refer to Question 56.

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Question no.: 59

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Yeppen Floodplain

Proof Hansard Page/s: 20-21 (12/02/13)

Senator HEFFERNAN asked:

Mr Pittar: The Yeppen Floodplain—there was \$5 million provided for a study looking at future options to cross the Yeppen Floodplain and to potentially bypass Rockhampton. The minister released that study— I think it was on 8 January, so last month. As part of that announcement he also announced a contribution of \$5 million toward further more detailed design.

Senator JOYCE: Was that redirected funding from somewhere else?

Mr Pittar: The \$5 million for the original study was part of Nation Building 1. The additional \$5 million was as a result of savings elsewhere in the program in Queensland.

Senator JOYCE: Whereabouts?

Mr Pittar: We have a number of projects that were coming in under budget and were used for that particular project. We are also looking at potential other projects where there may be a—

Senator JOYCE: I understand what that answer means. Where do the savings come from? Just a whole range of other projects?

Mr Pittar: A range of other projects in Queensland.

Senator JOYCE: When will that funding be available?

Mr Pittar: The funding is available from this financial year.

Senator HEFFERNAN: You cannot recall the projects?

Mr Pittar: Not off the top of my head, Senator.

Senator HEFFERNAN: That is what Eddie Obeid keeps saying. Will you take it on notice and provide the detail?

Mr Pittar: Yes, we can do that.

Answer:

The additional \$5 million for the Yeppen Floodplain was funded through cost savings in projects in the Nation Building Program, specifically the Bruce Highway - Gympie Four-Laning and Upgrading.

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Question no.: 60

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Mackay Ring Road Study

Proof Hansard Page/s: 21 (12/02/13)

Senator JOYCE asked:

Senator JOYCE: Mackay ring road?

Mr Jagers: Again I understand the study is ongoing.

Senator JOYCE: The study is ongoing. It was a \$10 million study. How much of that study have we completed.

Mr Mrdak: We can get you that information, Senator.

Answer:

The Business Case for the Mackay Ring Road Study, which will identify the recommended bypass route, is expected to be completed in August 2013.

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Question no.: 61

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Bruce Highway Projects

Proof Hansard Page/s: 22 (12/02/13)

Senator JOYCE asked:

Senator JOYCE: What about the Bruce Highway? In question 92 from the last Senate estimates hearing we asked for a list of projects on the Bruce Highway and where the construction from the federal government was greater than 50 per cent. I note the department's answer that information detailing funding levels for Nation Building is available on the website. The department has previously provided a project by project list for the Pacific Highway. Can you provide a similar list for the Bruce Highway?

Mr Mrdak: We will take that on notice and provide that.

Senator JOYCE: Take it on notice that you can provide a list or take it on notice and provide a list?

Mr Mrdak: Take it on notice and provide a list. I do not think we have the full list with us today but we can provide that for you.

Senator JOYCE: Can you provide a list of projects since 2004 when Auslink was introduced, not just from the Nation Building program? So when you provide that on notice can we go from 2004?

Mr Mrdak: Certainly. So all Commonwealth funded works on the Bruce since that time?

Answer:

Following is a list of projects along the Bruce Highway with an Australian Government funding level greater than 50 per cent, from 2004.

AusLink projects

Project Name	Total Cost \$m	State Contribution \$m	Other Contribution \$m	Australian Government Contribution \$m
Cooroy – Gympie Duplication – Planning	8.10	0.80	0.00	7.30
Burdekin Safety Works	7.61	0.00	0.00	7.61
Glenorchy Straight	12.26	0.00	0.00	12.26
Southern Cairns (Sheehy to Foster)	8.7	0.00	0.00	8.7
Appletree Creek interchange	8.54	0.00	0.00	8.54

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Project Name	Total Cost \$m	State Contribution \$m	Other Contribution \$m	Australian Government Contribution \$m
Fairburn Flats – Bariveloe Road	9.95	0.00	0.00	9.95
Pavement resurfacing and safety works at Federal	1.95	0.00	0.00	1.95
Mandurana to the Leap upgrade	10.21	0.00	0.00	10.21
Black Mountain safety works	4.13	0.00	0.00	4.13
Gympie four laning and upgrading	58.57	0.00	0.00	58.57
Bruce Highway and Rammutt Road intersection	1.17	0.00	0.00	1.17
Overtaking lanes Gympie-Maryborough	4.79	0.00	0.00	4.79
Maryborough-Gin Gin pavement rehabilitation	4.00	0.00	0.00	4.00
Pavement reconstruction & rehabilitation, Mackay-Proserpine.	3.29	0.00	0.00	3.29
Realignment/rail crossing Plain Creek to Saltwater	19.80	0.00	0.00	19.80
Rockhampton to St Lawrence safety improvements (Toooloombah Creek to Granite Creek)	4.06	0.00	0.00	4.06
Cardwell Range Planning	0.95	0.00	0.00	0.95
Townsville Ring Road between Condon and Shaw Road	119.00	39.50	0.00	79.50
Gin Gin to Benaraby, Baffle Ck Rd intersection near Miriam Vale safety works	2.30	0.00	0.00	2.30
Strategic planning study between Corduroy & Banyan Creeks	0.99	0.00	0.00	0.99
Accelerated Bruce Highway Upgrade - Corduroy Creek to Tully High School improvements	127.01	0.00	0.00	127.01

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Project Name	Total Cost \$m	State Contribution \$m	Other Contribution \$m	Australian Government Contribution \$m
Accelerated Bruce Highway Upgrade Package - Townsville - Cairns Upgrade	220.00	0.00	0.00	220.00
Caboolture Motorway	299.08	0.00	0.00	299.08
ITS - Variable message signs, Cooroy-Gympie	2.80	1.30	0.00	1.50
Bruce Hwy - two overtaking lanes south of Gympie	3.75	0.00	0.00	3.75
Bruce Hwy - two overtaking lanes north of Gympie	3.20	0.00	0.00	3.20
McDonnell Ck to Fishery Falls	2.62	0.00	0.00	2.62
Poppi Rd Nth Ingham overtaking lane	3.05	0.00	0.00	3.05
Bundaberg pavement rehabilitation	4.49	0.00	0.00	4.49
Burdekin Bridge structural rehabilitation	2.34	0.00	0.00	2.34
Shirbourne Rd to Woodstock/Giru Rd	1.9	0.00	0.00	1.9
Brandon Crossing to Hoey Rd	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.64
Link Road to Palm Creek	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.61
Gillies Intersection to Maitland Road	0.7	0.00	0.00	0.7
Old Garadunga Rd to Canal Creek	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.61
Corduoy Creek to Murray Flats	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.32
Black Mountain rehabilitation	5.67	0.00	0.00	5.67
Total AusLink Costs	969.16	41.6	0	927.56

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Nation Building Program projects

Project Name	Total Cost \$m	State Contribution \$m	Other Contribution \$m	Australian Government Contribution \$m
Bruce Highway - Black Spots	250.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
Bruce Highway - Rest areas	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
Bruce Highway - Overtaking Lanes	165.00	0.00	0.00	165.00
Upgrade southern approach to Cairns	150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Raise southern approach to the Mulgrave River Bridge	50.00	10.00	0.00	40.00
Duplication from Vantassel Street to Cluden, Townsville	137.50	27.50	0.00	110.00
Douglas Arterial duplication	110.00	55.00	0.00	55.00
Cardwell Range realignment	115.00	0.00	25.00	90.00
Improved flood immunity at Gairloch Floodway	40.00	0.00	0.00	40.00
Upgrade the southern approach to Mackay	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Realign and raise Highway from Sandy Corner to Collinsons Lagoon	TBA	12.50	0.00	50.00
Upgrade Burdekin River Bridge	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
Burdekin Road Safety Audit projects	25.00	8.20	0.00	16.80
Southern approaches to Sarina	10.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
Yeppen Floodplain Upgrade - Planning and Design	10.00	5.00	0.00	5.00
Yeppen Flood Plain Study	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
Calliope Crossroads	150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Cabbage Tree Creek to Carman Road and Back Creek Range section upgrade	TBA	25.00	0.00	100.00
Upgrading of southern approaches to Gin Gin	20.00	0.00	0.00	20.00

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Project Name	Total Cost \$m	State Contribution \$m	Other Contribution \$m	Australian Government Contribution \$m
New Isis River bridge	TBA	6.25	0.00	25.00
Cooroy to Curra planning and design project	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Cooroy to Curra project (Section A)	790.00	395.00	0.00	395.00
Cooroy to Curra project (Section B)	488.00	125.00	0.00	363.00
Upgrade of Caboolture to Caloundra	195.00	0.00	0.00	195.00
Bruce Highway maintenance	245.00	0.00	0.00	245.00
Bruce Highway - strengthening and widening	95.00	0.00	0.00	95.00
Nambour Pavement Reconstruction	35.00	0.00	0.00	35.00
Total Nation Building		669.45	25	2,909.8

Regional Infrastructure Fund

Project Name	Total Cost \$m	State Contribution \$m	Other Contribution \$m	Australian Government Contribution \$m
Upgrade of the Intersection of the Bruce & Capricorn highways (Yeppen roundabout and bridge)	85.00*	17.00	0.00	40.00
Townsville Ring Road	200.00	40.00	0.00	160.00
Mackay Ring Road Study	10.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
Total RIF costs	295	57	0.00	210

* Remaining funding of \$28 million being provided by the Australian Government through the Bruce Highway – Black Spot Nation Building project already listed above.

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Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 62

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Bruce Highway Projects since 2004

Proof Hansard Page/s: 22 (12/02/13)

Senator JOYCE asked:

Senator JOYCE: Can you provide a list of projects since 2004 when Auslink was introduced, not just from the Nation Building program? So when you provide that on notice can we go from 2004?

Mr Mrdak: Certainly. So all Commonwealth funded works on the Bruce since that time?

Answer:

Refer to answer for 61.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 63

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Liveable Cities Program Funding

Proof Hansard Page/s: 23-24 (12/02/13)

Senator RHIANNON asked:

Senator RHIANNON: Liveable Cities Program—is that you?

Mr Mrdak: No, that is with us.

Senator RHIANNON: I found the information on your website, which is very useful but, while each project detail is there, to get a sense of the proportion of funding is very difficult. So what proportion of overall funding is the \$6 million awarded to the three projects in New South Wales? And do you have an overall spreadsheet where people who visit this site are able to get an assessment of the proportionality that you apply in dividing up this funding?

Mr Mrdak: Generally the project funding is matched by state and local government. Mr Pittar may be able to give you a better indication of individual projects in New South Wales.

Senator RHIANNON: I was just after that proportion. What is the \$6 million a proportion off?

Mr Pittar: The total program as funded by the Australian government was a \$20 million program. As Mr Mrdak said, the criteria around that program sought to and did achieve matching funding from the particular proponents.

Senator RHIANNON: Would it be possible to put the spreadsheet up so that as well as getting each individual project, which is the way it is at the moment, present that data so you just have them all there in a spreadsheet and people can work it out?

Mr Mrdak: We can take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department's Liveable Cities Program website provides project and funding information, arranged by city, on all projects.

See also response for 85.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 64

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Liveable Cities Program – Hunter Region Strategic Infrastructure Plan

Proof Hansard Page/s: 24 (12/02/13)

Senator RHIANNON asked:

Senator RHIANNON: Thank you. Do you know how the half million dollars to the Maitland city council aims to make their area more liveable, particularly in terms of the health impacts of coal dust from the coal trains that is being taken up by the community so strongly?

Mr Pittar: The half a million—

Senator RHIANNON: \$500,000.

Mr Pittar: The \$500,000 to the Hunter area—that work is currently ongoing. I cannot comment on the specifics.

Senator RHIANNON: Can you take on notice what they present that shows that it is liveable and whether there is any component around the health impacts of the coal industry.

Mr Pittar: Yes.

Answer:

See answer to 89.

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Question no.: 65

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Bruce Highway – Black Spot funding

Proof Hansard Page/s: 27 (12/02/13)

Senator NASH asked:

Senator NASH: I am terribly sorry—I must have overlooked that one. We did touch on the Bruce Highway before, Mr Mrdak, but I specifically wanted to ask about the Bruce Highway safety package. Can you just briefly outline for me how the projects are selected. Is there an application process? I will put more of these on notice as well.

Mr Mrdak: I will ask Mr Pittar to give you an overview of the safety program, which is well advanced.

Mr Pittar: The Queensland government is responsible for identifying priorities for expenditure on the Bruce Highway safety package of works. We are reliant on their processes. They obviously consult as part of that exercise in order to put to us the priorities based on the consultation they undertake.

Senator NASH: What is the total funding under the package?

Mr Pittar: The total funding under the Bruce Highway black spots program during the current Nation Building program is \$250 million.

Senator NASH: How much of that has been expended?

Mr Pittar: I can come back to you on that.

Senator NASH: Perhaps someone can have a look. All the projects under the package—are they solely federally funded?

Mr Pittar: That is correct.

Senator NASH: how much of the package's funding is yet to be committed?

Mr Pittar: I will come back to you on that. I will take it on notice if I can.

Answer:

Refer to Question 77.

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Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 66

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Project Updates

Proof Hansard Page/s: 30 (12/02/13)

Senator MACDONALD asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD: I will write to you about that. Similarly, I will put on notice if someone can give me an update on Blakey's Crossing at Townsville, the Yeppen roundabout and floodplain at Rockhampton and also the Burdekin bypass. The Mayor of the Burdekin Shire has written to the minister some time ago raising some issues. So far I understand he has not had a reply. Perhaps on notice you can tell me what is happening with that.

Mr Mrdak: Certainly, we will give you advice in relation to all three of those.

Answer:

Blakey's Crossing

The Australian Government is not providing funding towards any works at Blakey's Crossing, however, there is a project being jointly funded by the Queensland Government and Townsville City Council, which is expected to commence in 2013.

Yeppen

The Australian Government is providing \$68 million towards a \$85 million project involving the upgrade of the roundabout at the intersection of the Bruce and Capricorn Highways and construction of a new higher level bridge over the Yeppen Lagoon. Works commenced in May 2012 and are expected to be completed late 2013.

The Australian Government is also providing \$5 million towards the \$10 million cost for detailed design and land acquisition towards a future upgrade of the Bruce Highway across the Yeppen Floodplain from the Burnett Highway intersection to the Bruce and Capricorn Highways roundabout.

Burdekin

The Department has not received any submissions seeking funding for a Burdekin Bypass project from either the Queensland Government or Burdekin Shire Council.

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Question no.: 67

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program Applications from the New England Area

Proof Hansard Page/s: 34 (12/02/13)

Senator WILLIAMS asked:

Senator WILLIAMS: Just out of curiosity, were there any from the New England area of New South Wales, do you know?

Mr Jagers: We have not announced the details of the applications that have been received and the decisions have not been announced either.

Mr Jagers: We are happy to take that on notice and come back to you after the announcement.

Mr Mrdak: I will see if we have the details of the applicants here. If we do not, we can provide that to you.

Mr Foulds: I will have to provide it to you later, Senator.

Answer:

A list of approved projects under Round Three is available from
<<http://www.nationbuildingprogram.gov.au/funding/Heavyvehicles/>>.

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Question no.: 68

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: WestConnex Steering Committee

Proof Hansard Page/s: 38 (12/02/13)

Senator RHIANNON asked:

Senator RHIANNON: Since the steering committee was set up, you or one of your representatives has been to all of those meetings?

Mr Mrdak: Yes.

Senator RHIANNON: Who have you been briefed by? You can take that on notice if it is lengthy.

Ms O'Connell: We can take it on notice and provide you with the members of the steering committee if that is useful to you.

Senator RHIANNON: Yes, if you could take that on notice, please.

Answer:

The Sydney Motorways Project Steering Committee (SMPSC) oversees the WestConnex project and comprises the following members:

- Les Wielinga, Director General, Transport for NSW (Chair)
- Peter Duncan, Chief Executive, Roads and Maritime Service
- Mike Mrdak, Secretary, Department of Infrastructure and Transport
- Lyn O'Connell, Deputy Secretary, Department of Infrastructure and Transport
- Peter Regan, NSW Treasury
- Phil Gaetjens, Secretary, NSW Treasury
- Sean O'Toole, Managing Director, Urbangrowth NSW
- Chris Swann, Executive Director, Infrastructure NSW
- Simon Smith, Deputy Director General, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Robert Hamilton, Independent Member

Briefing to the SMPSC is provided by the Sydney Motorways Project Office, which is responsible for developing the business case for the project.

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Question no.: 69

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Project Prioritisation

Proof Hansard Page/s: 42 (12/02/13)

Senator NASH asked:

Senator NASH: Can I ask you to take notice for me then, and it may well be somewhere on the website, which I am happy for you to direct me to if that assists, the list of priority rounds 1, 2 and 3 and the projects that fit in those priority rounds 1, 2 and 3 and, insofar as you can, provide the information of that type of matrix that you have used for each of those projects to fit into those separate priority rounds?

Mr Mrdak: Certainly.

Answer:

The Pacific Highway priority sections are as follows:

Priority one

Priority one involves completing dual carriageway between:

- Sydney and Port Macquarie;
- Ballina to the Queensland border; and
- sections to the north and south of Coffs Harbour.

Priority two

Priority two involves completing dual carriageway between Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour which involves the following sections:

- Oxley Highway to Kempsey;
- Frederickton to Eungai; and
- Warrell Creek to Urunga.

Priority three

Priority three involves completing dual carriageway between Woolgoolga and Ballina.

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) utilise an assessment methodology to determine priorities and apply ratings against the following criteria: road safety; traffic volumes; level of service; and amenity improvement. Other factors such as sequencing of works is also considered.

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Question no.: 70

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Funding for the Hann Highway

Proof Hansard Page/s: 42 (12/02/13)

Senator MACDONALD asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD: Mr Mrdak, there were some announcements made about roads in the north of Queensland. What is the current status with any suggestion of funding for the Hahn Highway, which is out the back of Townsville between Cairns and Hughenden?

Mr Jagers: There is no current commitment.

Senator IAN MACDONALD: There have been quite a number of approaches made to support work on that highway in particular. Is the department aware of any approaches? Perhaps that might be better to be taken on notice.

Mr Mrdak: Can I take that offline and come back to you? There have certainly been approaches in relation to the Kennedy Highway and the Hahn I think. There have certainly been lots of approaches in relation to it. We have been having a look at those issues. I will just take on notice if I may just where that is at.

Answer:

The Hann Highway was not included in the Queensland Government's submission for funding for the next phase of the Nation Building Program, post 2013-14.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 71

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Investment in Road and Rail Projects

Proof Hansard Page/s: 47 (12/02/13)

Senator RHIANNON asked:

Senator RHIANNON: I am interested in how you advise the department about investing in public transport considering that investment favours road projects over rail.

Mr Mrdak: I think that is one for myself in Nation Building rather than the Surface Transport area of the department. In essence I think as you commented earlier we have seen a significant lift in investment in public transport by the federal government over the last few years. We do that principally through looking at benefit cost analysis in terms of projects. I would not necessarily say that favours road over rail.

Senator RHIANNON: But wouldn't you agree that your figures show that, when you actually add them up, there is still an imbalance? I think it is running at about four to one.

Mr Mrdak: There has certainly been a significant lift in public sector expenditure on urban passenger transport and particularly rail. When the government announced Nation Building 2 last year in the budget you would have seen the category that has been created for funding around movement of passengers. There is a much stronger focus in that area and I would suggest that as the government develops its Nation Building 2 program you will see even further investments in heavy and light rail.

Senator RHIANNON: Can you take it on notice whether that figure is correct between road and rail projects? Maybe take this on notice too because the chair wants to move us on: which divisions of the department look after developing public transport and sustainable transport work and how many staff work on this task? Can you take that on notice?

Mr Mrdak: It covers a range of divisions—our major cities unit, our Nation Building unit and aspects particularly of our policy and research area. It works across our divisions. I will take that on notice.

Senator RHIANNON: I am after that comparison between public transport and roads.

Answer:

The Federal Government has committed more to urban public transport than all our predecessors combined since Federation.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 72

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Nation Building 2 – Committed Projects

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator NASH asked:

1. Please provide an updated list of all of the projects intended to be funded from Nation Building 2 whose funding is currently contained in the contingency reserve fund.
2. For each of those projects, please detail the financial year by financial year expenditure from the Federal Government (if known).
3. Please advise if each of the following 9 projects are still in the contingency reserve fund:
 - (a) Inland rail preconstruction
 - (b) Parramatta to Epping Rail Link
 - (c) Moreton Bay Rail Link
 - (d) Richmond Bridge
 - (e) Princes Highway West
 - (f) Tasman Highway
 - (g) Great Eastern Highway
 - (h) Legacy Way – Northern Tunnel Link
 - (i) F3 to Sydney Orbital
4. If any are no longer in the contingency reserve fund, can you please confirm whether or not they are funded in the Department's forward estimates?
5. Have any of these projects been deferred or delayed?

Answer:

Please refer to Question 56.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 73

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Financial year expenditure

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator NASH asked:

1. For the following projects, can you please confirm the financial year by financial year expenditure from the Federal Government (if known):
 - (a) Parramatta to Epping Rail Link
 - (b) Moreton Bay Rail Link (please provide information for Nation Building 1 and Nation Building 2)
 - (c) Bruce Highway Cooroy to Curra (Section A) (please provide information for Nation Building 1 and Nation Building 2)

Answer:

1.
 - (a) The Australian Government has committed \$2.1 billion to the development of the Parramatta to Epping Rail Link.
 - (b) The Australian Government has committed \$742 million to the construction of the Moreton Bay Rail Link.
 - (c) The Australian Government has committed \$395 million to the development of Bruce Highway Cooroy to Curra (Section A).

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 74

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Maranoa River Bridge

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator NASH asked:

In relation to the additional \$4 million in funding announced in January 2013 for the Maranoa Bridge, from which projects were savings found to fund the Maranoa Bridge?

Answer:

The additional \$4.055 million in Australian Government funding for the the Maranoa Bridge was funded through cost savings in projects in the Nation Building Program, specifically the Bruce Highway - Gympie Four-Laning and Upgrading.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 75

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Nation Building Project Savings

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator NASH asked:

1. I understand savings have been made on the Bruce Highway Cooroy to Curra (Section B) project, what is the total amount of savings that were found from this project?
2. I understand savings have been made on the Ipswich Motorway project, what is the total amount of savings that were found from this project?
3. On which projects in Nation Building 1 has the Government obtained savings which have been used to fund alternative projects?
4. What is the total amount in savings that have been identified?
5. What is the amount of savings that have been found for each project?
6. Please provide a list of the projects that have been funded or part funded by these savings.

Answer:

1-6 The following projects have been funded from savings in the Nation Building Program:

- Maldon - Dombarton Rail Link - scoping and development (NSW);
- Bolivia Hill reconstruction feasibility study (NSW);
- Tenterfield Heavy Vehicle bypass feasibility study (NSW);
- Ballarat Avenue of Honour Rail Crossing Reopening (VIC);
- Western Interstate Freight Terminal (VIC);
- Princes Highway West – planning for Winchelsea to Colac Duplication (VIC);
- Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra Section A (QLD);
- Bruce Highway – Yeppen Floodplain Upgrade – planning and design (QLD);
- Portlink Inland Freight Corridor planning study (WA);
- Albany Ring Road Stages 2 and 3 – planning (WA);
- Perth Light Rail planning study (WA);
- Big McPhee Bridge and Approaches (WA);
- Great Northern Highway Upgrade – Muchea to Wubin, Bindi Bindi to Lyons East Road Section (WA);
- Rail Improvements between Port Augusta and Tarcoola (SA); and
- Bridgewater Bridge Development (TAS).

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 76

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Yeppen Floodplain

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator NASH asked:

1. Please confirm that the \$5 million committed to make the Yeppen Floodplain ‘shovel ready’ was provided in 2012-13. If not, in which financial year was this funding provided?
2. From which particular projects in Queensland were the savings found to fund this commitment?
3. When is it expected that this pre-construction work will be completed?

Answer:

Refer to Question 59.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 77

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Bruce Highway Safety Package

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator NASH asked:

1. In relation to the Bruce Highway Safety Package, please provide the financial year by financial year expenditure on the Package.
2. Is this programme funded beyond 2014-15?
3. When is the \$250 million in funding due to be expended by?
4. How much of the funding has been committed to date?
5. How much of the funding has been contracted to date?
6. How much of the funding has been expended to date?

Answer:

1.

Financial Year	Amount (\$m)
2013-14 (forecast)	119.7
2012-13(forecast)	70.1
2011-12 (actual)	30.4
2010-11 (actual)	6.5
2009-10 (actual)	23.3
TOTAL	250.0

2. The Government has allocated \$40 billion over 10 years for the Bruce Highway.
3. The \$250 million in funding is due to be expended by 2013-14.
4. The full \$250 million in allocated funding towards the Bruce Highway – Black Spots Program has been committed to specific projects along the corridor.
5. As of 31 January 2013, projects to a value of \$166.7 million has been contracted by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.
6. As of 31 January 2013, \$60.8 million of the funding had been spent by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 78

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Great Northern Highway Upgrade, Bindi Bindi to Lyons East Road

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator NASH asked:

1. (a) In relation to the announcement of funding for the Bindi Bindi Bends in 2012, did this funding come from savings on another project?
(b) If so, which project?
2. Please provide the financial year by financial year breakdown of funding for the Bindi Bindi Bends?

Answer:

1. Funding for the Great Northern Highway Upgrade, Bindi Bindi to Lyons East Road came from a range of project savings.
2. Funding will be provided across 2012-13 to 2013-14.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 79

Program: n/a

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

Topic: Inland Rail

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator NASH asked:

1. Please provide an update (if available) on the Department's work towards a timetable for funding for the \$300 million commitment to the inland rail.
2. When will the timetable be finalised?

Answer:

Refer to Question 57.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 80

Program: 1.1 Infrastructure Investment

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

Topic: Regional Infrastructure Fund

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator NASH asked:

1. Please provide the financial year by financial year funding profile for each of the following projects funded under the Regional Infrastructure Fund:
 - (a) Peak Owns Highway safety works (\$120 million)
 - (b) Gladstone Port Access (stage 2 and 3) (\$50 million)
 - (c) Warrego Highway and Brisbane Valley Highway interchange (Blacksoil interchange) (\$54 million)
 - (d) Townsville Ring Road (section 4) (\$160 million)
 - (e) Yeppen Lagoon bridge and roundabout (\$68 million)
 - (f) Gateway WA (\$480 million)
 - (g) Scone Level Crossing Study (\$1.4 million)
 - (h) Mackay Ring Road Study (\$10 million)
 - (i) North Queensland Resources Supply Chain project (\$1.66 million)
 - (j) Central Queensland Resources Supply Chain project (\$1.5 million)
 - (k) Hunter economic Infrastructure Plan (\$450,000)
 - (l) Regional Mining and Infrastructure Plans in South Australia (\$1.5 million)
2. (a) For each of these construction projects, which have commenced construction?
3. When is construction expected to commence on the remaining construction projects?
4. (a) For each of the studies funded under the Regional Infrastructure Fund, which have commenced?
 - (b) Which have been completed? When will the remaining commence? When are the remaining studies due to be complete?

Answer:

The full program of works, together with the Australian Government contribution can be found on the Department's website.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 81

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Mackay Ring Road Study

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator NASH asked:

What is the reason for the delay in the release of the Mackay Ring Road Study?

Answer:

There is no delay.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 82

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Moorebank Intermodal Terminal

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator NASH asked:

1. I refer to the Minister's joint announcement with the Minister for Finance on 13 December 2012 in relation to the Moorebank Intermodal Company Board.
 - (a) Can you confirm that these Board Members are Ministerial appointments?
 - (b) Are the positions remunerated? If so, provide details.
2. What role (if any) did the Department have in assisting in the selection of board members?
3. I note that the Minister's media release notes that "Further appointments will be made to the Board in 2013, in consultation with the Chair and the Directors appointed today". How many more board members are yet to be appointed?
4. Do you have a timeframe for the appointment of these board members?
5. I refer to Question on Notice 95 from the previous Senate Estimates which states that a constitution will be established for the Moorebank Intermodal Company.
 - (a) Has this occurred?
 - (b) If not, when will it be finalised? Will this be a public document?

Answer:

1.
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) Yes. The Remuneration Tribunal has made a determination for the positions on the Moorebank Intermodal Company Limited Board.
2. An extensive executive search was undertaken. An external consultant was engaged by the Moorebank Project Office at the Department of Finance and Deregulation in consultation with the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.
3. Four.
4. NA.
5.
 - (a) Yes.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 83

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Nation Building 2 – Committed Projects

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator NASH asked:

Please provide a financial year by financial year funding profile of those projects currently committed to by the Government under the Nation Building 2 program (where available).

Answer:

Please refer to Question 56.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 84

Program: 1.1 Infrastructure Investment

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

Topic: Regional Infrastructure Fund

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator NASH asked:

1. (a) Please advise if any projects funded under Stream 1 or Stream 2 have been deferred or delayed since 1 January 2013. If so, which projects?
(b) For each of those projects, please advise me of the reason for this deferral or delay?
2. (a) Please advise if any projects funded under Stream 1 or Stream 2 have been deferred or delayed since they were announced. If so, which projects?
(b) For each of those projects, please advise me of the reason for this deferral or delay.

Answer:

Blacksoil Interchange (Warrego Highway - Brisbane Valley Highway Interchange) project – Works are underway.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 85

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Liveable Cities Program Funding

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator RHIANNON asked:

1. The data suggests that NSW has received a relative small proportion of the total funding until 2012. Is this the case and if so why?
2. (a) Is there a consolidated table with totals for all projects funded under the Liveable Cities program anywhere on the Department's website?
(b) If not can it be included on the website?
3. Of what proportion of overall funding is the \$6 million awarded to three projects in NSW? (Hunter \$500K, Sydney Tri-generation \$3.75; Parramatta River \$3.75)

Answer:

1. There are 4 projects in New South Wales totalling \$8.3 million out of the \$20 million in Liveable Cities Program funds, which represents 41.5 per cent of program funding.
2. (a) The Department's Liveable Cities Program website provides project and funding information, arranged by city, on all projects.
(b) See response to Question 2(a).
3. See response to Question 1.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 86

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Nation Building 2

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator RHIANNON asked:

1. In October last year I was told no decisions had yet been made about funding categories for Nation Building 2, but projects proposals from the states were being received and assessed:
 - (a) Are the figures for the Connecting People or Urban Living components available yet?
 - (b) Will the figures be released before the next budget?
 - (c) How many proposals in total have been now been received for Connecting People?
 - (d) How many have been assessed?
 - (e) What is their value?
 - (f) What are the proposals for?
 - (g) Was the balance of project applications received in line with expectations?

Answer:

The Government announced the next tranche of projects that will be funded under NB2 in the Budget.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 87

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Moorebank Freight Intermodal Terminal

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator RHIANNON asked:

A nation building program Fact Sheet states that “*The Moorebank Intermodal Terminal will relieve the growing pressure on congested infrastructure around Port Botany and the M5 motorway and allow more freight to travel by rail*” and that the total benefits of the project are estimated at \$10 billion, including.

- Taking 3,300 trucks per day off road between Port Botany and Moorebank from 2020
 - Faster freight and reduced costs to business
 - Reduced fuel use and diesel emissions
 - Thousands of new jobs
2. What dollar and percentage value does each of these four points listed represent out of the estimated total \$10 billion benefits? For example, what is the cost benefit of taking those 3,300 trucks off the road between Port Botany and Moorebank every year?
 3. How many trucks would the M5 WestConnex road would carry on that road each year?
 4. What is the response to the concern that the Moorebank freight Intermodal terminal and the M5 Westconnex road projects are at odds with each other?
 5. Does Sydney need both these projects?

Answer:

1. This information is provided in the Detailed Business Case which can be found on the Department of Finance and Deregulation’s website.
2. The business case for the WestConnex project has not been finalised.
3. Expected growth of Port Botany will be reliant on improvements to both road and rail connections and container handling facilities.
4. Yes.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 88

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Budget for Public Transport Projects

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator RHIANNON asked:

What is the total budget figure for public transport projects such as passenger rail, buses, light rail and bicycle infrastructure?

Answer:

Refer to Question 71.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2013

Infrastructure and Transport

Question no.: 89

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Liveable Cities Program – Hunter Region Strategic Infrastructure Plan

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator RHIANNON asked:

Regarding the federal Liveable Cities Program funding of \$500K that the Maitland Council won for developing a Hunter Region Strategic Infrastructure Plan, which is being developed in partnership with Hunter Councils and the NSW Government. An Infrastructure NSW webpage about the Hunter Strategic Infrastructure Plan program features 3 large photographs of the coal loaders at Newcastle harbour, giving the impression the project is emphasising coal infrastructure.

1. How does this sit against the aims of the Liveable Cities program fund, and against the Major Cities Unit for the Hunter?
2. What is the department's role in the project collaboration and how many staff are involved?
3. What is the timeframe for completing the plan, and what is the next step after that?
4. I am concerned that the NSW Coalition government is so close to the mining industry that it will give undue emphasis to mining industry needs, and not the needs of the growing Hunter community.
 - (a) Is the Government confident that the process of producing this plan with the NSW government will give due emphasis to the aims of the Liveable Cities Program that is co-funding it - good planning outcomes for urban development, open space, tackling urban traffic congestion and climate change?
 - (b) The Australian Rail Track Corporation has earmarked \$3.5 billion for new coal rail line infrastructure over the next five years to support the proposed T4 fourth coal leader in Newcastle Harbour?
 - (c) How does the Liveable Cities Program feel about this, and how does the ARTC project compromise the aims of the Liveable Cities Program?
 - (d) How much money do you expect the federal government could invest to fund the recommendations of the Hunter Strategic Plan?
5. What funds would this come from, for example would it be the Nation Building fund?

Answer:

1. All eligible Liveable Cities projects were assessed by the Department against the program criteria published in the program guidelines, and successful projects were those that best met the Liveable Cities Program objectives. An important program outcome included the development of strategic plans for major regional cities with populations greater than 100,000 in line with the COAG criteria for capital city strategic planning systems, including the identification and preservation of critical infrastructure corridors, sites and buffers.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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2. The Department manages Program funding for the project through the funding agreement with Maitland City Council. Program managers in the Department liaise with Council to ensure requirements in the funding agreement are met.
3. The Hunter Strategic Infrastructure Plan is expected to be completed by mid-2013. The Plan should inform future decisions about planning in the Hunter region at the local, State and Federal levels.
4. (a) See response to Question 1.
(b) The financing of these future investments is a matter for ARTC and the Supply Chain to consider.
(c) The Hunter Strategic Infrastructure Plan needs to take account of key infrastructure corridors, sites and buffers, including any proposed by the ARTC.
(d) Under the Liveable Cities Program guidelines, the Australian Government is providing funding for planning and design aspects of the Hunter Strategic Infrastructure Plan.
5. See response to Question 4(d).

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Question no.: 90

Program: 1.1

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

Topic: Gawler Line Modernisation: status and funding

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator EDWARDS asked:

With reference to Written Question on Notice 138 (May Budget Estimates 2012) and Written Question on Notice Question on Notice 80 Supp Budget Estimates October 2012):

1. What is being discussed with the South Australian Government?
2. Of the \$293.5 million committed under the Building Australia Fund for the Gawler Line Modernisation project, how much was committed for the ‘modernisation’ of the track and how much was committed for the ‘electrification’ of the track?
3. Provide a full break down of the project. How much has been spent to date and what has it been spent on? Of the remaining funds what work is it allocated for? Provide an itemised list with their respective costs.
4. Of the unspent funding, who has possession of this funding?
5. If it is the South Australian Government, when are they expected to have spent it by?
6. If the South Australian Government is not going to spend it when will they return it to the Commonwealth?
7. What alternative proposals have been put to the Department by the South Australian Government to spend the money on?
8. Has the Member for Wakefield spoken with the Department about any aspect of the Gawler Line Modernisation project? If so what?
9. Provide the original application for funding to the Building Australia Fund for the Gawler Line Modernisation project.
10. Provide any reporting or evaluation undertaken by the Department, other federal agency or the South Australian Government on this project to date.
11. What has been discussed with the South Australian Government?
12. What further discussions with the South Australian Government are planned?
13. I requested the original application for funding to the Building Australia Fund (QoN 66, Supp Est Oct 12) and was told it was confidential. I was referred to a document called *National Infrastructure Priorities: Infrastructure for an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future*, (May 2009). I assume this would contain some detail but its full of motherhood statements that tell me nothing. In fact the Gawler rail electrification project is listed as a “priority project and an “action ready to proceed” so clearly the department was mislead there.
 - (a) Why is the application confidential?
 - (b) What information contained in the application needs to remain confidential?

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Answer:

1. Those discussions are ongoing. The Federal Labor Government understands the need to invest in better public transport to improve the liveability of Australia's major cities.
2. Of the total project cost, \$124.5 million is allocated towards electrification.
3. The SA Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure provided the following budget estimate for track upgrade, station works and electrification:

Track Upgrade	\$125 million
Station Works	\$44 million
Electrification	\$124.5 million

The Department requested the SA Government cease further expenditure on 1 June 2012. In October 2012 the actual expenditure to date was:

Track Upgrade	\$118.6 million
Station Works	\$44.7 million
Electrification	\$54.1 million

It is intended to invest the remaining funds on the electrification of the Gawler Line and associated project management costs.
4. The Australian and South Australian Governments.
5. see answer 1.
6. see answer 1.
7. see answer 1.
8. No.
9. The South Australian Government made a submission to Infrastructure Australia (IA) on a confidential basis. IA's recommendations for the project were included in its report titled '*National Infrastructure Priorities: Infrastructure for an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future*, May 2009'.
10. The SA Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure provides monthly progress and financial reports to the Department on the Project.
11. See answer to Question 1 above.
12. See answer to Question 1 above.
13. See answer to Question 9 above.