

Estimates Questions on Notice Budget Estimates 2008-2009

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Portfolio
Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 May 2008

QON No.	Date Asked	Hansard Reference/Written	Senator	Question
AA 01 (Airservices Australia)	28/05/08	74-75	O'BRIEN	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—What are the standard operating procedures where weather conditions may be difficult and flights have not arrived? Is there some procedural instruction about that?</p> <p>Mr Russell—In those circumstances, where the tower is closed the airspace would normally defer to what is called G class airspace where air crews self-separate by talking to each other to ensure that aircraft are separated, and that is a procedure that occurs generally where aircraft arrive after towers or in non-towered aerodromes, and we have some of them in Australia.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—How many incidents like this have occurred in recent times at any of the airports where—</p> <p>Mr Russell—I would have to take that on notice. I watch our daily operations on a day-to-day basis and I have to say that they are rare. They do occur from time to time, particularly when aircraft are off schedule. It is something I am more than happy to come back to you on.</p>
AA 03	28/05/08	81	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Yes. Still on the Friday, 4 April, peak hour in Sydney with only half the air traffic controllers. You would think they would have had the decency not to call in sick on a Friday, but anyway. That was their call.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—You do not even turn up.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—How much notice did they give, by the way?</p> <p>Mr Russell—I can check the details, but it was fairly short notice.</p>

AA 04	28/05/08	82	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Although on 4 April that disgraceful event occurred where half the air traffic controllers called in sick, apparently the greatest incidence of sick leave is in Melbourne. Is that true?</p> <p>Ms Fleming—For single day absences?</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Sick leave, calling in for sick leave.</p> <p>Ms Fleming—I could not tell you. I am sorry. We would have to come back with that.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Can you?</p> <p>Mr Russell—I cannot. But we are happy to take that and any other questions on notice, if you like.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Can you provide the total figure, and an airport figure, of the sick leave taken from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane Perth, Adelaide and Darwin?</p> <p>Mr Russell—We do not provide air traffic control for the airport in Darwin; it is a military airport. For the ones that we operate, yes, I can provide that information.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—That is sick leave?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Could you break it up according to the days taken off?</p> <p>Ms Fleming—We can certainly break it up by single day absences compared with absences that are longer, two or three weeks even. We class long-term sick leave, which is another whole area which requires case management, et cetera, at three weeks and above. We do break it down into the short-term, single days and then the long term. We can do that.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—As an average per worker?</p> <p>Ms Fleming—Yes, we could do that.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—As a percentage of working days lost; percentage to working days?</p> <p>Ms Fleming—Yes, we normally record it by day. The air traffic controllers are all shift workers.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—So that we see how many days are lost in sick leave, a ratio?</p> <p>Ms Fleming—Yes.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—An average per employee? We have established that it is an unlimited entitlement. I would like the total number and the total according to each airport so that we can establish the days lost.</p>
AA 05	28/05/08	82	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator Conroy—Are they even affiliated to the ACTU?</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Are they? Mr Russell, are they? It is irrelevant whether they are or are not.</p> <p>Mr Russell—I am not aware. I do not know.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—'No' you do not know?</p> <p>Mr Russell—I am sorry, I do not know.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—The minister asked the question so I am interested to know whether they are. Can you please take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Russell—Yes, we will.</p>
AA 06	28/05/08	87	FISHER	<p>Senator FISHER—I am sorry, no. What did the ANEF forecast in respect of noise levels?</p> <p>Mr Dudley—I would have to take that on notice. I do not have the exact figures in front of me.</p>

AA 07	28/05/08	87	FISHER	<p>Mr Dudley—Also there were two issues that we wanted clarity on in regard to the proponent's, Canberra International Airport's, ANEF process and we have received one clarification back from Canberra International Airport and we are seeking just clarification on one outstanding issue.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—What are those two aspects on which you sought clarification from Canberra Airport?</p> <p>Mr Dudley—I would have to take those on notice.</p>
AA 08	28/05/08	89	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—An E-Change program has an independent audit. Has that happened or is that something that is planned for the future? What is the status with the audit?</p> <p>Mr Dudley—If I understand the question correctly, the audit is a consultancy piece of work, where we are auditing—and part of the reason I can quote the 58,000 tonne footprint is we have audited to date what our exact carbon footprint is and what is generated from that carbon footprint.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Is that an in-house thing or is that publicly available?</p> <p>Mr Dudley—It was an in-house thing for our in-house consultancy that was undertaken for us to establish it.</p> <p>Mr Russell—We could provide it.</p> <p>Senator NASH—If you can provide it that would be great.</p>
AA 09	28/05/08	89,91	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Is it true that absentees have increased in the Melbourne centre—absenteeism, as distinct from sick leave—and it has conveniently coincided with the Airservices decision to change the night shift staffing procedures in low volume sectors controlled from Melbourne?</p> <p>Mr Russell—Ms Fleming, would you take that or would you like to take it on notice?</p> <p>Ms Fleming—I could take that on notice. I do not have the figures in front of me, but we can bring them back to you.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—You see no link in the almost immediate increase in absenteeism in the Melbourne centre to the changing of the night shift procedures?</p> <p>Mr Russell—No, I did not say that. I said that I can see no evidence of a concerted campaign and we will come back to you on the question of the absenteeism numbers post that change.</p>
AA 10	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	What appointments have been made to boards, advisory committees, or any other quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations (quangos) within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments since 24 November 2008: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government?
AA 11	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	Please list all quangos within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

AA 12	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	<p>In relation to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government and agencies within its responsibility, please answer the following questions in relation to each of the Federal seats of Banks, Lowe, Bennelong, Macquarie, Cunningham, Throsby, Barton, Watson, Charlton and Werriwa:</p> <p>a) What programs, initiatives or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be maintained under the Rudd Government?</p> <p>b) What programs, initiatives or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be reversed under the Rudd Government?</p> <p>c) What new programs, initiatives or other undertakings will be allocated to these seats under the Budget?</p>
AA 13	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	<p>Please advise whether the list of items under the policy heading on the ALP website http://www.alp.org.au/ constitutes the total sum election "promises" made by the Rudd Government within the following portfolios: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government</p> <p>If not, please provide a comprehensive list which includes all promises referred to on the ALP website as well as those that were made but are not contained on the ALP website?</p>
AAA 01 (Aviation & Airports)	28/05/08	93	ADAMS	<p>Senator ADAMS—I certainly got the message from the minister that that will be done despite the fact that I wonder why it needs to be done if the school is below the level that is necessary to insulate. What would be the cost of noise insulating all public buildings within this particular contour? Does anyone have any idea about that?</p> <p>Ms Ellis—I can speak generally in relation to the Sydney program as far as associated costs go. But as far as a breakdown for the public buildings, per se, I would have to take that on notice.</p>
AAA 02	28/05/08	94	MCGAURAN	<p>Ms Ellis—Yes, a detailed costing was undertaken and we understand that the cost will be in the vicinity of \$14.5 million.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—How was that detailed costing undertaken?</p> <p>Ms Ellis—The department used a company which has been involved in costing past insulation programs.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Are we able to see that evaluation?</p> <p>Ms Ellis—I would have to take that on notice but I am happy to and, if it is available, we will provide it.</p>
AAA 03	28/05/08	95	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—How many planes fly over during school hours, does anyone know?</p> <p>Ms Ellis—I would have to take that on notice to give you an accurate number.</p>
AAA 04	28/05/08	97	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Are there any other plans to carry out insulation in that area of the Fort Street School of public buildings? Have there been any applications since?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—We will take that on notice.</p>
AAA 05	n/a	Written	JOHNSTON	<p><i>National Aviation Policy Statement- Issues Paper</i></p> <p>The Issues Paper alludes to a “debate” regarding the balance being struck between airports and airlines in relation to commercial arrangements for access to services. Can you provide specific examples of where these concerns lie?</p>

AAA 06	n/a	Written	JOHNSTON	<i>National Aviation Policy Statement- Issues Paper</i> Is the Department aware of any representations made to the government, or to the Department, since the election, that the current framework is not working and if so, who made these and what is the nature of the concerns.
AAA 07	n/a	Written	JOHNSTON	<i>National Aviation Policy Statement- Issues Paper</i> Obviously airport operators and owners support the current policy. Is the department aware of any other organizations that support the policy
AAA 08	n/a	Written	JOHNSTON	<i>National Aviation Policy Statement- Issues Paper</i> Can the department explain to the committee the difference between dual till and single till regulation and the merits of each? Precisely, why did the productivity commission recommend the dual till approach?
AAA 09	n/a	Written	JOHNSTON	<i>National Aviation Policy Statement- Issues Paper</i> How much investment has occurred in airport car parks since 2002? Have operating costs been affected by security issues?
AAA 10	n/a	Written	JOHNSTON	<i>National Aviation Policy Statement- Issues Paper</i> The Government has re-imposed price monitoring for car parks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is there any more analysis of the need to change policy other than that contained in the Minister's press release? b. How do the new arrangements compare to the arrangements in place prior to the PC review of 2007? c. Can the department explain what, if anything has changed since 2007? d. Given this is an extension of regulation, what estimate has the Department placed on additional costs to be incurred by airport operators and the ACCC in relation to this? e. Can the department advise the committee what competition exists for car parking provided by airport operators and how their prices compare to those charged by airports? f. Does the Government expect this to restrain airport prices or is just another example of "price watching by the Rudd Government
AAA 11	n/a	Written	JOHNSTON	<i>National Aviation Policy Statement- Issues Paper</i> Is it not the case that the current policy largely reflects that of the previous Labor Government?
AAA 12	n/a	Written	JOHNSTON	<i>National Aviation Policy Statement- Issues Paper</i> Is the department aware of any objections raised by the Labor Party when in opposition to the policy positions adopted by the previous Government in response to the productivity
AAA 13	n/a	Written	JOHNSTON	<i>National Aviation Policy Statement- Issues Paper</i> Can the Department advise the department of the extent of current investment plans at leased airports? Are these underpinned by commercial agreements entered into by airports and airlines? Is the Department aware of any views expressed recently, on in the material put to the productivity commission in its last review, as to whether this investment would be affected by a switch to a more intrusive price control arrangement?

AAA 14	n/a	Written	JOHNSTON	<p><i>National Aviation Policy Statement- Issues Paper</i></p> <p>In raising issues in relation to the regulation of airport prices in the Issues Paper, is the department aware whether the Government intends undertaking a “root and branch” review of these arrangements? For the sake of transparency, wouldn’t it be better for this to be done by the Productivity Commission? What are the likely and potential impacts on investment if the Government changes its policy substantially before the next scheduled review in 2012?</p>
AMSA 01 (Australian Maritime Safety Authority)	29/05/08	55	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—As a country, we are signatories to a number of international obligations. Through AMSA I understand we would sign off to new treaties and obligations under IMO with reasonable frequency. I do not know what sort of frequency. From time to time, that is something that AMSA does. I will perhaps place this on record. How many of those have you signed off on in the last five years? You might want to take that on notice and you might want to supply me with those. I do not expect you to answer that now.</p> <p>Mr Peachey—I might take you up on your offer and take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—But particularly you might want to answer now in a general sense and perhaps place on notice specifically with each one of those what sort of consultation you would have as a policy? How do we consult with industry on each of those in Australia, or do we at all? Obviously different treaties and different things we are signing off on may require a different approach to different industries. You may wish to attach on notice specifically what you actually did, who you met with and what you said. That is why I am saying you can have that on notice. I understand Mr Sutton is looking more attentive than others.</p> <p>Mr Sutton—The department works closely with AMSA in negotiations in the IMO and I think the general answer we can give is that there are extensive consultations with stakeholders in the negotiation of conventions so that AMSA and, where appropriate, the department sends along representatives to the IMO. We fully understand the views of Australian stakeholders in those negotiations. Following the finalisation of a convention, if the government goes down the path of ratification of that convention, again there is close consultation with stakeholders in the development of any legislation necessary to implement that convention in Australia.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—You might wish to add which of those we have actually signed and ratified, whatever the process is—there may be a multiple stage process—and indicate on each one of those what we are up to on each one. I would appreciate that.</p> <p>Mr Sutton—Happy to.</p>
AMSA 02	29/05/08	57	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—You are based locally, so I will do that. What percentage of ships would be actually inspected in regional harbours?</p> <p>Mr Kinley—I can actually give you a full breakdown of inspection rates in each port around Australia, if you wish.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—If you could take that on notice, that would be great.</p>
AMSA 03	29/05/08	57	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—How often do you fly someone from, let us say, Fremantle to a regional port?</p> <p>Mr Kinley—Again, I can give you full details on those rates, but it is very common.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—It is fairly common; you can provide that on notice.</p>

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BITRE 01 (Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport & Regional Economics)	28/05/08	99	NASH	Senator NASH —Do you know if any other departments have done any work on that? Given the current situation with high fuel prices and the tyranny of distance, if you like, in regional areas, I would think it would be quite important to ascertain the impact of the lack of any kind of public transport system in regional areas and what impact that does have on the communities. Mr Wilson —Dr Dolman has just advised me that the bureau did undertake some work a few years ago and released a report. From the Commonwealth point of view, we have done some work. It is an area that I would assume, but do not know, that the state jurisdictions will have undertaken in regards to their rural urban and transport planning. Senator NASH —Is that information that you could collate for us from the various state departments if they have actually done those studies? Mr Wilson —We can take the question on notice in terms of examining whether or not that research has been done and give you some advice. Senator NASH —I certainly did not expect you to answer it now. If you could take that on notice and certainly come back to the committee and let us know if the states have undertaken that type of research.
CASA 01 (Civil Aviation Safety Authority)	28/05/08	45	JOHNSTON	Senator JOHNSTON —That is a form 725, is it not? Mr Carmody —I do not know. Somebody can probably provide me some advice on that and I will find out for you

CASA 02	28/05/08	46	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—What time did he discover his mistake as opposed to what time he made the phone call?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—I presume he discovered the mistake that day. But I know the call was made that day. I can check.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Would it not be pertinent to this argument to find out when he actually discovered the mistake and what was the delay between the mistake and the phone call?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—It would.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Can we find that out?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—Yes. We could. It would be pertinent.</p>
CASA 03	28/05/08	47	JOHNSTON	<p>Senator JOHNSTON—He says special flight permits for Singapore are issued by the civil aviation authority of Singapore for Australian registered aircraft. Are you sure of that?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—I can check that fact. I will.</p>
CASA 04	28/05/08	47, 50	JOHNSTON	<p>Dr Aleck—I am reasonably familiar with the case. I was aware of it when it initially arose.</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—We will pause there. How did you become aware of it?</p> <p>Dr Aleck—Initially, quite frankly, before I had heard about any of the events arising in Australia, I got a telephone call from my colleague at the Civil Aviation Authority in Singapore asking specifically for advice about what our regulations provided. It was not connected with any case.</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—What date was that?</p> <p>Dr Aleck—I do not have a date. I can get that to you.</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—Did you make a note of the phone call?</p> <p>Dr Aleck—I most certainly did.</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—Can you take on notice what date you received an inquiry from your colleague in Singapore as to our regulations?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—Dr Aleck, you had a discussion with someone from Singapore Aviation?</p> <p>Dr Aleck—The Civil Aviation Authority.</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—Was it a woman?</p> <p>Dr Aleck—Yes, the head of their legal services.</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—Have you met her over the years at various conferences and what have you?</p> <p>Dr Aleck—Yes, but we also from time to time on various matters exchange information.</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—As you would. Do you recall when that discussion was?</p> <p>Dr Aleck—I could not say, but I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—If you could take it on notice I would be obliged.</p> <p>Dr Aleck—Yes. I will get back to you on that.</p>
CASA 05	28/05/08	51-52	JOHNSTON	<p>Dr Aleck—It would be inappropriate for me to say, yes, I am aware of that. What I would like to do, with your indulgence, is take this on notice and provide with as full a chronology of events and facts and circumstances as we are able to provide, which I think will address most of your questions. Also, in the meantime, we will confer with the Singaporean authorities and get some of the details that we do not have.</p>

CASA 06	28/05/08	52, 54	JOHNSTON	<p>Senator JOHNSTON—Mr Carmody, do we have any relationship with DFAT over the problems this man was facing?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—I am not aware. I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—Chair, what is the date that Mr Carmody has to come back to me by?</p> <p>CHAIR—18 June. I will check that just to make sure. I am sorry, 18 July.</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—That is a little disappointing, but I look forward to 18 July. If you could look at that and just tell me what interaction you might have had and when with respect to these events I would be very much obliged.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—Mr Thomas says that on 22 January he sought the assistance of the Australian embassy with respect to his situation and they declined to interfere with a Singaporean authority administered matter. Was CASA ever aware of any of that?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—As I have indicated, I am not formally aware of discussions we would have had, if we did have any, with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and I will take that on notice. That would cover that point off.</p>
CASA 07	28/05/08	52	JOHNSTON	<p>Mr Carmody—I believe he was the team leader of airworthiness.</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—So, he was the boss?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—I think so, and we could confirm that.</p> <p>Senator JOHNSTON—And he made the mistake?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—Yes, if that is in fact true, and I can confirm whether he was the team leader. I think he was the team leader, but he may not have been. I will look back through my brief and I can find out for you. But, yes, he made the mistake. If I may say, just while we are covering this, during the advice that was provided we offered and told Kimberley Seaplanes that they should apply for an export certificate of airworthiness.</p>

CASA 08	28/05/08	54-55	O'BRIEN	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Did you receive written advice from that person?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—I did. In addition to that written advice and subsequent to that response I sought external legal advice from one of the lawyers on our external panel, subsequent to my response, to confirm the original advice that I had been provided with internally. That advice also confirmed that I did not in any way mislead the Senate. As I have said, the allegation being raised by a professional colleague is to say the least disappointing.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Are you prepared to share those advices external and internal with the committee?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—As far as I am aware, I cannot provide legal advice. I am not allowed to table legal advice.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I do not know that you are not allowed to, but the government does not table legal advice.</p> <p>Mr Carmody—The government normally does not table it.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—You have sought advice in relation to the question of whether you misled the senate. That is what you have just told us.</p> <p>Mr Carmody—That is correct, and I could seek advice on that matter. Personally the advice, as far as I am concerned, is unambiguous, but it really depends on whether the advice falls in under that direction.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—It is not advice to government, is it?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—It is not necessarily my interpretation to make. That is why I would like to take the question on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—It was advice that you sought for your purposes?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—It was advice that was sought but it was sought for the organisation. It was sought on the advice of the organisation's legal panel so it is government legal advice.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—It was sought for CASA, was it?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—Yes, it was. It was sought through our legal panel. When I am providing my testimony I am representing the organisation so I suppose that is correct.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Yes. I suppose in part you are. You are also representing yourself. In terms of the suggestion that you misled the Senate it would be you who would be called to answer for that rather than the organisation, would it not?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—Correct. But as I have indicated, I am not aware of whether or not I am able to provide this advice. I can check that matter. As far as I am concerned the allegations are closed.</p>
CASA 09	28/05/08	63	O'BRIEN	<p>Dr Aleck—As to the reference to the newspaper article indicating that the operator was going to be conducting operations into Bamaga and did not hold an operator's certificate to do so, again I will take that on notice but my recollection is that particular flight was actually conducted by Aerotropics. It was conducted by an AOC holder who had RPT.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—They are connected, are they not?</p> <p>Dr Aleck—As I recall. I will take that that on notice.</p>
CASA 10	28/05/08	64	O'BRIEN	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can you, on notice, give us the details of over the last five years how many times there have been specific references to the findings that reflect on CASA's performance from coroners?</p> <p>Dr Aleck—As a matter of fact I can do that. We have them. We can do it on notice. We can go back 10 years, in fact, if you like.</p>

CASA 11	28/05/08	68	STERLE	<p>CHAIR—And it would be CASA’s role to enforce that exemption; is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—Yes, I would expect so.</p> <p>CHAIR—If we have got a host of people sitting around a table under the guise of a Standards Consultative Committee having some extended issues with a law, it tells me that something is not working. I am asking you, Mr Carmody or Mr Wight, have you been vigilant in enforcing that exemption or that law?</p> <p>Mr Wight—Through our normal surveillance process that would be something that we would routinely check, the exceeding of limitations of how they have been recorded within organisations.</p> <p>CHAIR—Do you have to hand your hit record, or score record, or those that are behaving and those that might be working outside it?</p> <p>Mr Wight—I do not on me, no.</p> <p>CHAIR—You may want to take that on notice, if you can, and provide that information to the committee.</p>
CASA 12	28/05/08	70	STERLE	<p>CHAIR—Commissioner Hart has raised his concerns. Would I be right in assuming that you have not implemented his recommendations?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—I have not got his recommendations in front of me but I would say that we are considering his recommendations in the context of the Standards Consultative Committee deliberations. That is my understanding.</p> <p>CHAIR—You are saying that the breach has been committed because the FMRS rules are being developed?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—Without having the full details of the response, I am not saying that a breach has been committed. I would be happy to take the matter on notice and look at what the ICC’s response has been. And I will look at the FMRS as well.</p>
CASA 13	28/05/08	70-71	STERLE	<p>CHAIR—Mr Carmody, we can sit there and ‘hmm’, but if we are talking about fatigue management obviously there are laws around it for a very good reason and I want to get to the bottom of it. Perhaps this law is not being enforced. I am not talking about my colleagues on the committee here who happen to spend too much time on airplanes now but for the whole general public. We like to think that our pilots are safely rested and ready for duties. But if we have major operators who are getting away with not enforcing the law because they cannot do it themselves and the major enforcement body, CASA, is not policing it, it sends a very worrying message when the pilots are out there saying, ‘Hey, how many more times do we have to scream out:</p> <p>“Enforce the law.”?’ If a new one is negotiated and a new one is enforced, good luck to all. Would that be a fair assumption? It is now 3.30 pm and there is a long way to go. You have taken on notice and you are going to come back to the committee with the records that you have for whatever breaches there have been to this exemption; is that right?</p> <p>Mr Wight—We can if—</p> <p>CHAIR—I am actually asking you to take it on notice if you can and come back to us.</p> <p>Mr Wight—I will take that on notice.</p>

CASA 14	28/05/08	71	STERLE	<p>CHAIR—Why are you permitting airlines to not comply with the law?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—If I may respond, as I have said before, I am not sure that we are. I would like to review that information.</p> <p>CHAIR—Okay. You did say that. That is fair and I will wait with bated breath for you to come back with that information.</p>
CASA 15	28/05/08	71	STERLE	<p>CHAIR—Is it correct to say that if CASA were to enforce the CAO 48E definition then the operators would need additional crew to operate some of their currently scheduled sectors and hence incur additional costs? Would that be a fair statement?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—I would have to couple that with my previous response. I do not know the answer to that.</p>
CASA 16	28/05/08	71	STERLE	<p>CHAIR—Were such commercial considerations a factor in CASA withdrawing its initial acknowledgement in 2005 to AIPA that the CAO 48E duty time definitions were being breached?</p> <p>Mr Carmody—I do not know the answer to that, either.</p> <p>CHAIR—Take that on notice, thank you.</p>
CASA 17	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	What appointments have been made to boards, advisory committees, or any other quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations (quangos) within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments since 24 November 2008: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government?
CASA 18	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	Please list all quangos within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
CASA 19	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	<p>In relation to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government and agencies within its responsibility, please answer the following questions in relation to each of the Federal seats of Banks, Lowe, Bennelong, Macquarie, Cunningham, Throsby, Barton, Watson, Charlton and Werriwa:</p> <p>a) What programs, initiatives or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be maintained under the Rudd Government?</p> <p>b) What programs, initiatives or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be reversed under the Rudd Government?</p> <p>c) What new programs, initiatives or other undertakings will be allocated to these seats under the Budget?</p>
CASA 20	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	<p>Please advise whether the list of items under the policy heading on the ALP website http://www.alp.org.au/ constitutes the total sum election "promises" made by the Rudd Government within the following portfolios: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government</p> <p>If not, please provide a comprehensive list which includes all promises referred to on the ALP website as well as those that were made but are not contained on the ALP website?</p>

CORP 01 (Corporate Services)	28/05/08	9	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—How many copies of the clippings are produced?</p> <p>Mr Banham—I do not have the number of clippings; I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator NASH—You do not have how many copies?</p> <p>Mr Banham—A lot of the stuff is done online, where people can actually download the clippings of interest themselves.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Do you have any way of tracking how many are downloaded?</p> <p>Mr Banham—We could give you the number of people who use the system.</p> <p>Senator NASH—If you could take that on notice, that would be great, thanks. Do you provide a press clipping service to other ministers?</p> <p>Mr Banham—Just to parliamentary secretaries and their minister.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Any government members of backbench committees?</p> <p>Mr Banham—Not that I am aware of, Senator. I will check.</p>
CORP 02	28/05/08	10	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—Could you take that on notice and come back to me. Prior to the last federal election, did the department provide a press clippings service to shadow ministers or any other member or senator in opposition?</p> <p>Mr Banham—I will take that one on notice.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Could you provide also which minister, member or senator it went to</p>
CORP 03	28/05/08	10	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—Are you aware that the department does not provide that service to the current shadow minister for infrastructure?</p> <p>Mr Banham—I am not aware of that. I will check that.</p>
CORP 04	28/05/08	10	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—Yes, absolutely. As you are representing the minister, do you know if he has a reason why he has chosen not to provide those to the current shadow minister?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I have never to my recollection discussed it with him. I am sure he will note your—well, you haven't actually asked for them yet—but I am sure he will note your comments.</p> <p>Senator NASH—If you would not mind taking to the minister this issue and providing me with a response from the minister—</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I will certainly raise it with him on your behalf.</p>
CORP 05	28/05/08	13	ADAMS	<p>Senator ADAMS—You can get that on notice, then. What is the part-time equivalent basis? How many employees are employed on contract? What is the average length of their employment period?</p> <p>Mr Banham—I will take that one on notice.</p>

CORP 06	28/05/08	17	FISHER	<p>Senator FISHER—Minister or Ms Page, but probably Minister: how much money was spent by this portfolio on air travel between Sydney and Canberra since February this year?</p> <p>Ms Page—We will have to take that on notice and we will try to get back to you.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—Thank you, that would be good. Can you inform the committee how much—both in dollar terms and percentage terms—of that travel between Sydney and Canberra would have been with Qantas and how much with Virgin?</p> <p>Ms Page—Yes, we can do that.</p>
CORP 07	28/05/08	17-18	FISHER	<p>Senator Conroy—I think the government introduced recently a policy about using both carriers for the departments.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—I was going to ask you about that, Minister. Can you remind me: what is your policy?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I am happy to get you the information.</p> <p>Ms Page—I am advised that we are currently at the nominated level of 25 per cent of Sydney-Canberra trips on Virgin.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—When you say ‘at the nominated level’, from your perspective, is that the government’s election commitment?</p> <p>Ms Page—There is a policy promulgated by the department of finance which requires a minimum of 25 per cent Sydney-Canberra government travel to be on Virgin.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—Minister, can you advise me as to whether that is part of the government’s election commitment?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—That falls within the finance portfolio. I am happy to seek information for you on that, but I think that is the policy that is across the Public Service now.</p> <p>Ms Page—It is an administrative policy which accompanied the re-entry of Virgin Blue to the Canberra-Sydney route.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—I would like to know whether it is government policy and whether it was also government policy heading into the election.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—As I said, you are probably asking the wrong minister, in that it is a finance department edict. I am happy to take that on notice and check with the minister for finance rather than the minister for transport and infrastructure, but I am sure we can furnish you some information on that.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—That would be good, Minister, thank you—particularly as to whether adhering to the 25 per cent target is your government’s election commitment—</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Okay.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—as opposed to purely a departmentally administrative policy.</p>

CORP 08	28/05/08	19	FISHER	<p>Senator FISHER—How do you report your delivery of that target?</p> <p>Mr Banham—Our travel service provider has been instructed to provide us with that specific report every week on the number of people flying on the Sydney-Canberra leg using Virgin Blue.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—Okay. Is that information made publicly available—for example, in your bi-quarterly reports or in your annual report?</p> <p>Mr Banham—I believe it is shortly to be made available on our website. I think all agencies have been asked to publish this information.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—It is not published yet?</p> <p>Mr Banham—I would have to confirm if it has actually cut in at this moment, but I am aware that we have had a request that it be made public.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—By when will that information be made public on the department’s website?</p> <p>Mr Banham—I will have to confirm that.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—I would appreciate that. I will take that as a second question on notice. Thank you, Chair; I do have further questions on notice relating to actual expenditure year-by-year, but I will provide them on notice.</p>
CORP 09	28/05/08	22	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—As the minister’s representative you probably can answer this: has the minister received his charter letter?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—You mean my personal one, or Mr Albanese’s?</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Albanese’s.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I will just double check that. I think the answer is no but if there is a change to that I will come back to you.</p>
CORP 10	28/05/08	22	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—When did you have your meeting with the Prime Minister?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Could I just get my office to send me the details. It was some months ago; I just cannot remember the exact date. If anyone in my office is watching could they let me know when that was.</p>
CORP 11	28/05/08	72	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—Would you like to report back to the committee when you are confident that everything has been updated to the necessary level right across the department? If you could notify the committee at the point at which you feel that has been reached, that would be great.</p>
CORP 12	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	<p>What appointments have been made to boards, advisory committees, or any other quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations (quangos) within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments since 24 November 2008: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government?</p>
CORP 13	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	<p>Please list all quangos within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government</p>

CORP 14	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	<p>In relation to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government and agencies within its responsibility, please answer the following questions in relation to each of the Federal seats of Banks, Lowe, Bennelong, Macquarie, Cunningham, Throsby, Barton, Watson, Charlton and Werriwa:</p> <p>a) What programs, initiatives or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be maintained under the Rudd Government?</p> <p>b) What programs, initiatives or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be reversed under the Rudd Government?</p> <p>c) What new programs, initiatives or other undertakings will be allocated to these seats under the Budget?</p>
CORP 15	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	<p>Please advise whether the list of items under the policy heading on the ALP website http://www.alp.org.au/ constitutes the total sum election "promises" made by the Rudd Government within the following portfolios: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government</p> <p>If not, please provide a comprehensive list which includes all promises referred to on the ALP website as well as those that were made but are not contained on the ALP website?</p>
CORP 16	n/a	Written	FISHER	<p>What was the total amount spent by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government on domestic airfares during the 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 (year to date) financial years (reported separately)?</p>
CORP 17	n/a	Written	FISHER	<p>What was the total amount spent by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government on economy class domestic airfares during the 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008(year to date) financial years (reported separately)?</p>
CORP 18	n/a	Written	FISHER	<p>What was the total amount spent by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government on business class domestic airfares during the 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 (year to date) financial years (reported separately)?</p>
CORP 19	n/a	Written	FISHER	<p>Of the total amount spent by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government on domestic airfares during the 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 (year to date) financial years (reported separately) what proportion (in both dollar and percentage terms) was spent with (i) Qantas/Jetstar, (ii) Virgin Blue, (iii) Tiger (where applicable in the 2007/2008 financial year), (iv) Regional Express and (v) others [including chartered flights]?</p>

CORP 20	n/a	Written	O'BRIEN	<p>With reference to the failure of the Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government to appear at the committee's 2008 Senate Budget Estimates hearing:</p> <p>(1) On what date did the Secretary write to the committee advising that he would be absent from the hearing.? (2) On what date was in-principle approval for the Secretary's travel to the International Transport Forum in Leipzig, Germany, given? (3) On what date was the Secretary's travel to the International Transport Forum in Leipzig, Germany, confirmed? (4) On what date were organisers of the forum informed of Mr Taylor's attendance? (5) On what date did the Secretary depart Australia for the meeting? (6) On what date did the Secretary return to Australia? (7) Who accompanied the Secretary on this trip? (8) Can a detailed itinerary for the full trip be provided? (9) Can a detailed breakdown of costs associated with the Secretary's trip be provided, including airfares, accommodation, land transport and allowances? (10) Can details of the Secretary's official overseas travel since his appointment as Secretary of the department be provided, including, for each trip, details of the purpose, destination/s, who accompanied the Secretary, and full costs? (11) Has the Secretary failed to appear at previous Estimates hearings due to overseas travel. If so, please provide details?</p>
CORP 21	n/a	Written	O'BRIEN	<p>Does the Secretary continue to receive an ongoing "temporary" accommodation allowance?</p> <p>If so:</p> <p>(1) Why? (2) Is the value of the payment still \$680 a fortnight. If not, when was it varied and how? (3) What is the value of payments received by the Secretary, by financial year, including the current financial year to date? (4) How many other departmental officers enjoy an ongoing "temporary" accommodation allowance?</p> <p>If not:</p> <p>(1) When did the payment of the allowance cease? (2) Why did the payment cease? (3) What is the value of payments received by the Secretary, by financial year, including, if applicable, the current financial year to date?</p>

CORP 22	n/a	Written	O'BRIEN	<p>Does the Secretary continue to enjoy an ongoing reunion travel entitlement?</p> <p>If so:</p> <p>(1) Why? (2) Is the maximum value of the entitlement still \$6,600 per year. If not, when was it varied and how? (3) What is the value of the entitlement accessed by the Secretary, by financial year, including the current financial year to date? (4) How many other departmental officers enjoy an ongoing reunion travel entitlement?</p> <p>If not:</p> <p>(1) When did the entitlement cease? (2) Why did it cease? (3) What is the value of the entitlement accessed by the Secretary, by financial year, including, if applicable, the current financial year to date?</p>
CORP 23	n/a	Written	O'BRIEN	<p>Have costs other than those associated with temporary accommodation and reunion travel be incurred by the Commonwealth as a result of the decision of the Secretary of the department to reside in Melbourne and not Canberra?</p> <p>If so, can a breakdown of total costs be provided, including, but not limited to, costs associated with additional travel (including travel allowance and travel by other staff), equipment and communications.</p>
IA 01 (Infrastructure Australia)	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	<p>What appointments have been made to boards, advisory committees, or any other quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations (quangos) within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments since 24 November 2008: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government?</p>
IA 02	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	<p>Please list all quangos within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government</p>
IA 03	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	<p>In relation to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government and agencies within its responsibility, please answer the following questions in relation to each of the Federal seats of Banks, Lowe, Bennelong, Macquarie, Cunningham, Throsby, Barton, Watson, Charlton and Werriwa:</p> <p>a) What programs, initiatives or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be maintained under the Rudd Government? b) What programs, initiatives or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be reversed under the Rudd Government? c) What new programs, initiatives or other undertakings will be allocated to these seats under the Budget?</p>

IA 04	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	<p>Please advise whether the list of items under the policy heading on the ALP website http://www.alp.org.au/ constitutes the total sum election "promises" made by the Rudd Government within the following portfolios: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government</p> <p>If not, please provide a comprehensive list which includes all promises referred to on the ALP website as well as those that were made but are not contained on the ALP website?</p>
II 01 (Infrastructure Investment)	28/05/08	8-9, 111	NASH/ ABETZ	<p>Senator NASH—Okay. What I would like to go onto—and I take your response; there is not much more we can do about that. As I was trying to say—and sorry I interrupted you—there are a number of portfolio related issues that have been answered in this manner. If I can just give you a bit of an example, in the infrastructure investment section, we have some questions here from Senator Birmingham that were asked last estimates:</p> <p>What funds, if any, have been committed by the South Australian Government towards federally funded road projects, broken down by project?</p> <p>—a fairly straightforward question, and the answer is:</p> <p>Details of South Australian Government contributions to road projects are set out in full at www.auslink.gov.au. Start and completion dates for each South Australian road project—same answer: full details, www.auslink.gov.au. Again:</p> <p>At which intersections will grade separations occur?</p> <p>Full details of at www.auslink.gov.au, and it goes on.</p> <p>Now, we can easily go to a website before we even come in here and have a look at that. That is not the point. It is about asking officials questions and requiring an appropriate answer. I do not, and neither do my colleagues, think that it is anywhere near appropriate to refer us to a hyperlink. Can I also refer to a specific issue where the official undertook to actually provide the committee with a hard copy download, which was fine, because they had not actually produced the final copies, and yet we get another link. It is entirely inappropriate. Could I have your comment on that?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator Conroy—that they wanted to do it as quick as possible, but I am genuinely happy to take this up with the minister to assist in the process of the Senate estimates. I do have some sympathy, having had it happen to me on a number of occasions, but as I said, I am sure it was just an enthusiasm to provide information as fast as possible.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator Conroy—If I can just say, the Prime Minister has given what we believe is a satisfactory answer on the issue of election commitments. As to the other issues you raise around some answers not having as much information as you would have liked, I think I said this morning to Senator Nash, perhaps in the enthusiasm to answer your questions, the answers were prepared and perhaps some information was not readily available at the time, but I have undertaken to take it up with the minister to ensure that we are able to meet the requests of senators.</p>
II 02	28/05/08	112	ABETZ	<p>Senator ABETZ—In the past there was an agreement between the Commonwealth and the state that, if the state wanted to, the Commonwealth would fund \$100 million or 80 per cent of the bridge if the state were to fund 20 per cent of it. Is that offer still on the table from the new government?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I would have to take that on notice.</p>

II 03	28/05/08	114	ABETZ	<p>Senator ABETZ—While you are in a jovial mood, would you check for me—or get one of your staff to check—as to whether this particular project was on the Labor Party website. I could not find it.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I will take that on notice and see whether there is any further information that Minister Albanese can provide you.</p>
II 04	28/05/08	114	ABETZ	<p>Senator ABETZ—That is what I was thinking. If at this stage we could commit ourselves only to the intersection, how much do you think that will cost? Do we have that broken up as yet?</p> <p>Mr Rokvic—We would have to take that on notice. We do not have that information.</p>
II 05	28/05/08	116	ABETZ	<p>Senator ABETZ—When can we expect the government to tell us when, or what year, they intend to place the Brooker Highway and eastern outlet into the national network?</p> <p>Ms Page—I would imagine that it would be done in the near future, but I cannot be specific about the date.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—We will take that on notice.</p>
II 06	28/05/08	117-118	ABETZ	<p>Senator ABETZ—Was a state government request ever made to the minister or the department for this upgrade work?</p> <p>Ms Page—I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—If you could, please.</p> <p>Ms Page—This is an election commitment. The government is committed to doing it.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—That is fully understood. I am just wondering whether, separate to that election commitment, the state government wrote to either—you will have to remind me: Mr Albanese or Mr Truss, wouldn't it have been?</p> <p>Ms Page—Mr Vaile.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Thank you, Mr Vaile—in relation to funding for this lifting mechanism?</p> <p>Ms Page—We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—If you could take that on notice I would be much obliged. That is all.</p>
II 07	28/05/08	140	ADAMS	<p>Senator ADAMS—We will leave that one. I will start with the Perth-Bunbury Highway. This is in regard to a bonus if this project is finished early. Motorists are supposed to be on that highway by December 2009. My question is: will those contractors that are constructing the Perth-Bunbury Highway be paid a bonus if it is finished early?</p> <p>Ms Page—I will ask Mr Maher to address your question on the Bunbury Highway.</p> <p>Mr Maher—I would have to take that on notice. I am not familiar with that.</p> <p>Ms Page—That will probably refer to the particular contracting arrangements that the West Australian government has entered into on that road, which we are not party to.</p> <p>Mr Maher—Correct.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—The reason I was asking the question is the fact that the project has blown out so much and the federal government has put in an additional \$160 million from the 2008-09 budget. My question is: will any of that be directed towards meeting any bonus?</p> <p>Ms Page—We will have to take that on notice.</p>

II 09	28/05/08	143	FIELDING	<p>Senator FIELDING—Would you then be able to break it up on what was allocated? I understand it may well not be spent.</p> <p>Ms Page—We could provide you with advice on what allocations are made potentially for local road use, yes.</p> <p>Senator FIELDING—Would you be able to do that going out for the next budget period plus the next couple of years or whatever is known? We certainly want one year's worth and a couple of years would be good.</p> <p>Ms Page—We can do it where there is money allocated in the forward estimates that does not relate to discretionary expenditure, if you like.</p>
II 10	29/05/08	12	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—That is right. Surely there is some analysis of applications from councils. Four million dollars for a road on which there are 185 vehicles a day is an interesting decision, so I would like to know also: were reports on the planning process sent to the government as part of the acquittal process? And were all the required planning processes carried out by the Huon Valley Council during the planning period and before work started?</p> <p>Ms Page—We will take that on notice.</p>
II 11	29/05/08	14-15	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—As a question on notice, could I ask the minister to consider looking outside the square and investigating other ways that, once Commonwealth money is budgeted, we can actually get some action on it? That may mean tendering to private contractors, which will then require the Queensland government to allow private contractors independently of the Queensland government to deal with 'their roads', even though 'their roads' are really roads that are almost entirely funded by the Commonwealth or local government. As a question on notice, can the minister consider looking outside the square? It needs a better brain than mine to work out a way to do it, but the problem needs to be addressed.</p>
II 12	29/05/08	15	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Perhaps you could refer this to the relevant minister: could he let me know what the government's view is on a possible duplication of the bridge over the Burdekin River between Ayr and Home Hill?</p> <p>Ms Page—I will take that on notice.</p>

II 13	29/05/08	16	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—The issue that I have is not with the bypass but in the planning for the bypass route and future infrastructure planning. The Southern Expressway from Kingston to Hobart is becoming congested at the Hobart end at the top of Macquarie Street. There is a growing population base as would be acknowledged by the application for funding for the bypass. It is very clear that there is an option now to extend the bicycle route, but more particularly a rapid transit option, presumably by bus, onto the Southern Expressway. What I would like to put on notice is: when the Commonwealth is discussing this project with Tasmania, can we make sure the route is designed in such a way as it could complement a connection to a rapid transit option on the Southern Expressway, particularly because the Kingston High School is moving and there is an opportunity to make the Kingston High School site a nodal point for park and ride? It would be a logical way of linking that bypass to the Kingston High School site as the nodal point and then going for rapid transit to Hobart. If that has not been considered and all that has been considered to date is how to channel more cars—or the same cars, if you like—out of Kingston onto the Southern Expressway, who in this department looks at the forward planning or is that left to the Tasmanian authorities and you just look at what they come up with?</p> <p>Ms Page—It is primarily a responsibility for the Tasmanian government. However, we are certainly concerned to ensure that planning takes adequate account of growth, provides good value for money and takes into account the future transport needs of the area which has been planned for.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—On that basis, can I ask that you go back to the Tasmanian government and ask them about future planning options in relation to rapid transit—</p> <p>Ms Page—We can ask them about that.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—and whether they can make sure it is taken into account so that the bypass does not come out somewhere well away from where public transport is. It could all be done so easily and so well if it is thought out now. There is a one-off opportunity with the high school moving.</p> <p>Ms Page—Yes, we will take that on notice.</p>
II 14	29/05/08	20	MILNE	<p>Ms Page—The total funding to be made available under AusLink II is \$22.6 billion. In relation to rail, I would like to take that on notice because it will involve us adding up particular rail projects, some of which are continuing.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Okay. If you could identify the rail project separately, with a total, that is fine.</p>
II 15	29/05/08	29	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—Has there been any kind of determination yet on whether option B or option C should be the way to go?</p> <p>Mr Hogan—I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator NASH—I completely understand it is very difficult to be across every piece of asphalt around the country. Could you take on notice to give the committee a very clear briefing of what is the status of that project, what deliberations have been taken to date on the different options and currently which option is preferred by government? I would appreciate if you could give the committee a very clear understanding of the role of the state government in the development of this particular piece of road. Within the \$1.4 billion to duplicate the highway in that section of the state, are there any clear indications under the AusLink II and could you provide some dates and timings of when building would commence?</p> <p>Ms Page—We can do that.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Thank you.</p>

II 16	29/05/08	38	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—So, to be clear, there is not even funding allocated for—</p> <p>Senator Conroy—That is not the case.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—For planning. So it is not a priority project?</p> <p>Ms Page—I cannot comment on what is a priority and what is not.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—There has been funding allocated for planning for other projects.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—We are happy to come back to you. If you want to ask us what all the priority projects are, we are happy to come back and give you some information.</p>
II 17	29/05/08	39	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—I am getting near the end. I return to the seat of Gippsland. Is there any proposal for the duplication of what they call the Highland Highway? That is between Traralgon and Yarram.</p> <p>Ms McNally—Between Traralgon and where?</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Yarram.</p> <p>Ms Page—I think we will take that one on notice, Senator.</p>
II 18	n/a	Written	BUSHBY	<p><i>Huon Highway</i></p> <p>Has the Department received any requests from either State or Local Government levels to provide funding towards overtaking lanes or other works on the Huon Highway south of Huonville in Tasmania?</p>
II 19	n/a	Written	BUSHBY	<p><i>Huon Highway</i></p> <p>Is the Department in possession of any information that demonstrates the need for overtaking lanes or other works on the Huon Highway south of Huonville?</p>
II 20	n/a	Written	BUSHBY	<p><i>Huon Highway</i></p> <p>In view of any information before it, does the Department consider there is a need, on safety or any other grounds, for overtaking lanes or other works on the Huon Highway south of Huonville.</p>
II 21	n/a	Written	BUSHBY	<p><i>Huon Highway</i></p> <p>Does the Government intend to provide any funding towards overtaking lanes or other works on the Huon Highway south of Huonville.</p>
II 22	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>The Coalition promised \$700 million by 2014 towards its contribution of the upgrade of the Cooroy to Curra section of the Bruce Highway in Queensland. This included the Gympie Bypass which was to widen the highway to four lanes. Labor in its election only promised \$200 million to start work on a bypass of the worst section of the Bruce Highway from Cooroy to Curra. This is a \$500 million reduction of commitment.</p>
II 23	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>Is funding available to buy affected landowners now?</p>
II 24	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>What does the Rudd Government expect to do with the \$200M committed to this road section till 2014 given that it is small amount considering the total \$3 billion cost estimate of the road upgrade.</p>
II 25	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>Is the Rudd Government aware that there have been 30 fatalities on this stretch of highway in the past seven years?</p>
II 26	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>Why did the Rudd Government fail to match the Coalition commitment to repair this dangerous and narrow stretch of road?</p>

II 27	n/a	Written	NASH	Can the Minister confirm that there is funding in this year's budget for Roads to Recovery, the Black Spots programme and Strategic Roads?
II 28	n/a	Written	NASH	Is this funding guaranteed into the future or will it be subject to the considerations of Infrastructure Australia?
II 29	n/a	Written	NASH	With regard to the budget commitment of Labor to provide \$0.8 million for a comprehensive study into the transport needs of the Lower Hunter Region, in conjunction with NSW; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Why is it necessary to do another (the 28th) study, on traffic in the Hunter Valley? What will happen to the corridor already purchased for the F3 to Branxton link? o In terms of this study, can you inform the Senate Committee about what the study will investigate? o Is the centrepiece of this study an investigation into the F3 to Branxton road link?
II 30	n/a	Written	NASH	What other transport issues in the Lower Hunter are being investigated?
II 31	n/a	Written	NASH	For example, is a second Sydney Airport in the Hunter region a matter that could be considered?
II 32	n/a	Written	NASH	Is this a joint study with the NSW Government? How much money is the State Government contributing?
II 33	n/a	Written	NASH	Why was such a study needed? Local historians have counted 27 previous studies of a similar nature. Is this true?
II 34	n/a	Written	NASH	Was this study an election promise of the Government's?
II 35	n/a	Written	NASH	When will the study be completed?
II 36	n/a	Written	NASH	Is the Rudd Government aware of comments by the Member for Hunter and now Minister for Defence, Joel Fitzgibbon, who said on 27 September 2007 in relation to the F3 to Branxton that 'we've waited far too long, it's past time the bulldozers rolled in'?
II 37	n/a	Written	NASH	In the same release, Mr Fitzgibbon speaks of a study prepared for the Hunter Economic Development Corporation by the Hunter Valley Research Foundation. Is the Government aware of this report?
II 38	n/a	Written	NASH	Can the Government confirm the findings of the report – such as \$740 million being invested in the project returning community benefits of \$1.5 billion?
II 39	n/a	Written	NASH	What is the benefit to cost ratio for the F3 to Branxton link road?
II 40	n/a	Written	NASH	When was the alignment for the link road determined?
II 41	n/a	Written	NASH	Is the Government aware that Mr Fitzgibbon has claimed that it was determined in the mid 1980s?
II 42	n/a	Written	NASH	The Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Mr Albanese, visited Maitland on May 16. Can you inform the Committee about what the results of that visit were?
II 43	n/a	Written	NASH	The previous Government acquired all but a handful of the properties needed along the alignment of this proposed road link. How many further properties need to be acquired?
II 44	n/a	Written	NASH	How much money has this cost the Federal Government?

II 45	n/a	Written	NASH	Has the Government stopped all planning and pre-construction works?
II 46	n/a	Written	NASH	How much money in total has been spent by the Federal Government on this work?
II 47	n/a	Written	NASH	With regard to Labor's undelivered election promise to provide \$140 million to start duplicating the Princes Highway East from Traralgon to Sale, the recent budget only provided \$0.5 million to plan the Princes Highway East duplication from Traralgon to Sale.
II 48	n/a	Written	NASH	What will this plan achieve?
II 49	n/a	Written	NASH	When will it be complete?
II 50	n/a	Written	NASH	Why is it necessary to commence a plan?
II 51	n/a	Written	NASH	Why not just put the project to tender, including the planning process, and build it?
II 52	n/a	Written	ABETZ	What is the status of the upgrade to the Esperance Coast Road upgrade in the Huon Valley Tasmania?
II 53	n/a	Written	ABETZ	Can the Department detail how much of the \$2.8 million promised by the previous Government for the Esperance Coast Road upgrade has been expended so far and how much remains to be expended out of that fund?
II 54	n/a	Written	ABETZ	Can the Department detail any further commitments that have been made by the current Government, either through the election or since the 24 th of November 2007?
II 55	28/05/08	125	NASH	Senator NASH —I think it is more than just the grain lines. That is one issue. It is the issue of the rolling stock. That is really where we have had the difficulty this year. I guess I would ask you to ask the minister when the taskforce is going to very seriously consider the ongoing arrangements for the rolling stock and what can be put in place to ensure that there is some kind of security for growers that not only the grain line is going to be maintained but there will be some arrangement in place. Ms Page —We will pass that information on.
II 56	29/05/08	11	HEFFERNAN	Senator HEFFERNAN —I apologise, Chairman, for not being here for the concrete sleeper man last night. I am very familiar with the operation and I have to admit Junee is in the heart of it. You may take my question on notice because it is a curiosity at the plant, which is a fantastic new plant there at Bowman at Wagga. There is a huge stack of 100 yards by 50 yards—as I said out in the room there last night I think—of sleepers with a red X on them. I happened to go to Wagga one day with one of the guys who manages the plant and I said, 'What are those red Xs?' He said, 'They are rejects.' So, I wondered what the reject percentage was—I guess it is from stress and they are probably tested in some way—and what would become of them? He said that they will be used in lower grade lines. But I just wondered, given that it is a modern plant, what is the success rate of throughput—that is, the ones that meet the specifications and the ones that come out the other end under specification? Would it be one in 10, one in 50? Ms Page —We would have to take that on notice with the ARTC.

II 57	29/05/08	11	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Thank you. I am sorry I was not here last night, Minister, when this was being done, but can you point me to the areas of the budget where I would be able to get the details of what projects have been mentioned in the budget papers in relation to Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia?</p> <p>Ms Page—We can provide you with the budget announcements in relation to Queensland and Western Australia.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—And the Northern Territory, please?</p> <p>Ms Page—Yes.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—That may have already been requested by others last night.</p> <p>Ms Page—We can provide you with that information.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Dare I mention the word ‘lists’, but is it a lot of trouble to you just to actually prepare me a brief list of the projects?</p> <p>Ms Page—There are formal announcements in relation to all new projects that were announced in the budget context.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Are these media releases?</p> <p>Ms Page—They are media releases, but they also have supporting information as well. We will put together a package for you of those.</p>
II 58	29/05/08	20	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—Also, how many of those are freight routes from coal centres? The Hunter Valley will be one and there may be others.</p> <p>Ms Page—We will take that on notice.</p>

II 59	29/05/08	26	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—With the funding of \$20 million over four years for the operation of Infrastructure Australia, how is that figure arrived at? I assume it is \$5 million per year for the four years.</p> <p>Ms Page—No. It is \$500,000 this financial year and \$6.5 million per year after that.</p> <p>Senator NASH—How was that arrived at?</p> <p>Ms Page—That is an election commitment.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Is there a reason?</p> <p>Ms Page—It is an election commitment.</p> <p>Senator NASH—It is an election commitment. Minister, can you shed any light on it? Did you say it was \$500,000 for this year?</p> <p>Ms McNally—This financial year.</p> <p>Senator NASH—And then it is?</p> <p>Ms McNally—It is \$6.5 million per year.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Per year after that?</p> <p>Ms McNally—For the next three years.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Can you shed any light on that for me, Minister?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—As I am sure you would understand, I was not involved in the preparation of all of our election commitments, but I am happy to take that on notice and see if there is any information that we can provide to you that sheds on light on it.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Thank you. Very genuinely it seems quite extraordinary if it is weighted that way. It almost seems like there is an expectation that not that much is going to happen in the first year. If you could take that on notice that would be very useful. Indeed, I would like to know not just why it is skewed so extraordinarily towards the three out years, but what that funding actually goes towards.</p>
II 60	29/05/08	27	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—Thank you, that clarifies it a lot. That is 2007-08 and then for the following years it is \$6.5 million. For 2008-09, of the \$6.5 million, how much is going to pay the people at Infrastructure Australia?</p> <p>Ms McNally—I will have to take that on notice. One of the issues is that the staff have yet to be recruited.</p> <p>Senator NASH—I am sorry, I might have this entirely wrong—</p> <p>Ms McNally—Are you referring to sitting fees?</p> <p>Senator NASH—Yes, I am referring to the board.</p> <p>Ms Page—We will take that on notice.</p>
II 61	29/05/08	27	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—I am sorry, I will rephrase it. Each board member is paid per day. Is that right?</p> <p>Ms Page—We would have to take that on notice, but certainly it would be a relatively small percentage of that funding, most of which is to meet the cost of staff, of procuring information and the accommodation of Infrastructure Australia.</p>

II 62	29/05/08	27	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—I would suggest that perhaps we could get it monthly as the development of the first year rolls out and people are put on staff. I would not expect you to get back to the committee every day, but it would be appropriate if you could advise the committee at the end of each month how many people have been retained in that given month and at what cost.</p> <p>Ms Page—I will take that on notice.</p>
II 63	29/05/08	28	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—I know where your environment policies are. You are setting up a conflict now between delivering on transport infrastructure, when emissions are increasing in transport, and a promise for a whole of- government approach in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. I am asking, since you are locked in to delivering on these transport strategies, are you going to exempt transport from emissions trading?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I am happy to take that on notice and seek any further information, but I suspect that is a question that you probably need to put to the environment minister or the climate change minister.</p>
II 64	29/05/08	31	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—There is another matter that you have raised on more than one occasion, Minister, that I am again compelled to ask questions about it, whoever the likely person is. With regard to the previous government’s infrastructure projects, can you tell me the cost of the Alice to Darwin rail line and when it was completed?</p> <p>Ms Page—I think we have provided an answer on that in the recent past, but we will take it on notice again and seek out that information.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—If you provided it in the recent past, should it not be ready and handy?</p> <p>Ms Page—We do not have it with us. No, I do not believe that we do. But we certainly have answered a question, I think, over the last 12 to 18 months, in my memory, concerning the costs of the Alice Springs to Darwin railway.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—It was a major infrastructure project. But I think at the time it was Australia’s largest infrastructure project since the Snowy.</p> <p>Ms Page—I could not comment on that, Senator.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—You could not? You are unaware or you cannot?</p> <p>Ms Page—I do not know how you would judge infrastructure projects and where that fitted at the time in which it was built.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Would you find out for me, or do you not think it is down your line?</p> <p>Ms Page—It is difficult to make retrospective judgements about how, a number of years ago, a particular project compared with others that were being constructed at the time. But we can certainly find you the information that we provided in the past concerning the cost of that project.</p>
II 65	n/a	Written	NASH	Will Infrastructure Australia evaluate ALP infrastructure election promises?
II 66	n/a	Written	NASH	What is the value of Labor’s infrastructure election promises?
II 67	n/a	Written	NASH	Members of the Advisory Council are charged with developing an Infrastructure Priority List – a list that is going to direct billions of dollars of investment into infrastructure projects. Is it correct that some of these members have ongoing commercial relations and interests in the infrastructure sector?

II 68	n/a	Written	NASH	What are the precise administrative arrangements to be put in place to avoid conflicts of interest matters in the conduct of the Infrastructure Australia Advisory Council?
II 69	n/a	Written	NASH	Infrastructure Australia met for the first time on 4 June 2008. Now that it has done so, what will be the procedures for reporting to the Minister its deliberations?
II 70	n/a	Written	NASH	In light of this meeting, what is Infrastructure Australia's definition of nationally significant infrastructure?
II 71	n/a	Written	NASH	Has Infrastructure Australia now decided what is to be the minimum size of infrastructure it will consider?
II 72	n/a	Written	NASH	What will be the relationship between Infrastructure Australia and the Building Australia Fund?
II 73	n/a	Written	NASH	Will Infrastructure Australia consider commercial rates of return on capital when making its recommendations on infrastructure projects?
II 74	n/a	Written	NASH	Now that Infrastructure Australia has met, how will it determine what are infrastructure priorities it should consider and what are should remain the responsibilities of the States?
II 75	n/a	Written	NASH	Will Infrastructure Australia be recommending that the Commonwealth underwrite metropolitan public transport infrastructure?
II 76	n/a	Written	NASH	As Infrastructure Australia develops its Infrastructure Priority List to guide public and private investments, how will it prioritise projects across State boundaries?
II 77	n/a	Written	NASH	The Infrastructure Australia Advisory Council includes Dr Kerry Schott the CEO of Sydney Water, Mr Anthony Kannis, the Executive Director of the Western Australia Treasury and Mr Phil Hennessey , the Queensland Chairman of KPMG. In other words, out of the twelve members of the Advisory Council, there are three who directly represent State-based interests – NSW, Queensland and Western Australia. How will Infrastructure Australia prevent a bias in its funding decisions to these three States?
II 78	n/a	Written	NASH	When will Infrastructure Australia make its first recommendations on road priorities?
II 79	n/a	Written	NASH	Will Auslink fall under Infrastructure Australia?
II 80	n/a	Written	NASH	With regard to Labor's election promises on roads, what analysis underpinned these promises?
II 81	n/a	Written	NASH	How would you describe the rapid growth in private sector investment over the last few years?
II 82	n/a	Written	NASH	Does Australia have an infrastructure shortage?
II 83	n/a	Written	NASH	Is there a shortage of funding for infrastructure?
II 84	n/a	Written	NASH	Have there been regulatory failures in the provision of infrastructure? What were the failures?

II 85	n/a	Written	NASH	How will Infrastructure Australia avoid these failures occurring again?
II 86	n/a	Written	NASH	How will Infrastructure Australia solve the problems raised by Patrick Corporation in its submission to the Exports and Infrastructure Taskforce in May 2005 where they pointed out that an operator of an interstate train may have to deal with seven rail safety regulators, three transport accident investigators, fifteen pieces of legislation covering occupational health and safety of rail operations and seventy-five pieces of legislation with powers over environmental management? (Page 49, Australia's Export Infrastructure, Report to the Prime Minister by the Exports and Infrastructure Taskforce.)
II 87	n/a	Written	NASH	To what degree are infrastructure bottlenecks the result of lack of public financing?
II 88	n/a	Written	NASH	To what degree are infrastructure bottlenecks due to conflicting, complex and overlapping State regulations?
II 89	n/a	Written	NASH	How will Infrastructure Australia solve these issues?
II 90	n/a	Written	NASH	How much of the Building Australia fund will be spent on roads?
ISTP 01 (Infrastructure & Surface Transport Policy)	29/05/08	44	ADAMS	<p>Senator ADAMS—I would like to ask some questions regarding pilots and escort drivers with heavy vehicles. This is in relation to possible federal rebates or taxation incentives for accredited pilots Australiawide to help with the rising fuel costs. In their situation, to claim a GST fuel rebate, the vehicle must be over 4.5 tonne GVM. In all states of Australia a lead pilot vehicle must not exceed 4.5 tonne. Most of these pilot vehicles in Australia weigh between one and three tonnes GVM. Do you have any information on that situation?</p> <p>Mr Jones—The short answer is, no, we have no information. In the query that was passed through to us relating to pilots and escort arrangements, issues of taxation treatment were not raised at all. But the broader observation that the fuel tax credit entitlement is to the heavy vehicle fleet, the heavy vehicle fleet being defined as 4.5 tonnes and above, is correct. We are clearly not the taxation department.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—I realise that.</p> <p>Mr Jones—That would raise issues of relevance of any particular subset of vehicles on the road below 4.5 tonnes. But there certainly is not a transport specific question or an escort and pilot specific question that we have been aware of in that space.</p> <p>Mr Wilson—You prefaced the question with a comment about accreditation and the possible benefits associated with accreditation?</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—Accredited pilots, as in vehicle pilots. The ones that were actually specifically accredited.</p> <p>Mr Wilson—If you do not mind, we will take the whole question on notice and provide you with an answer.</p>

ISTP 02	29/05/08	47-48	BARNETT	<p>Senator BARNETT—In terms of the freight equalisation scheme and the wheat freight scheme, you indicated the review that is taking place, and there have been consultations. Can you advise the committee who has been consulted, when they were consulted and when the report will be complete and available?</p> <p>Mr Sutton—Yes, we can provide a list of the people who attended the public consultations. There are further people on our consultation list we advise what is happening. There will not be a report as such from those consultations. We can certainly provide to the committee the information that is on our website about those consultations.</p> <p>Senator BARNETT—So you will take on notice who was invited and who was consulted and attended those meetings?</p> <p>Mr Sutton—Yes.</p> <p>Senator BARNETT—When and where the meetings occurred?</p> <p>Mr Sutton—That’s correct.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator BARNETT—So that is a refusal to provide the report because it is going to the minister? Is that what you are telling us? Or do you want to take it on notice?</p> <p>Mr Wilson—The department will not be producing a report as such in terms of a document that is a standalone report into the consultations associated with the work we have undertaken. What we will do is take into account our work and our consultations with the community and provide a briefing to the minister in regard to that and any changes to the administrative arrangements that underpin the scheme.</p> <p>Senator BARNETT—I am asking for any report, briefing papers, documents that you may have relevant to the consultation with members of the public regarding—</p> <p>Senator O’BRIEN—What you are saying is that it is advice to the minister, is it?</p> <p>Mr Wilson—I understand the question.</p> <p>Senator BARNETT—I am happy for you to take it on notice. You cannot refuse, unless you have a reason for refusal, to provide a document.</p> <p>Mr Wilson—No, I believe, if I understand your question, it was specific to the consultations, the documentation associated with the consultation?</p> <p>Senator BARNETT—Sorry, I missed that.</p> <p>Mr Wilson—Was your question about the provision of the material on which we consulted the community or provision of the material I will provide to the minister at the end of the review process?</p> <p>Senator BARNETT—I am requesting both. I am happy for you to take it on notice, without delaying the committee.</p> <p>Ms Page—We will take it on notice. But as a matter of practice we do not provide policy advice to the minister to this committee.</p> <p>Senator BARNETT—I am aware of that. Thank you.</p>
ISTP 03		Written	STOTT-DESPOJA	How is Austroads regulated by the Commonwealth?

LGRD 01 (Local Government & Regional Development)	28/05/08	21	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—Following on from your previous statements, Minister—I am happy for you to take this on notice—could you provide to the committee the number of proponents that have put forward in the past a project to Regional Partnerships with whom you have had discussions?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I am happy to take that on notice.</p>
LGRD 02	28/05/08	42	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—I want to clarify something. I am sorry to have to raise this again. Can we just ensure that in that list there is the 494 projects that were in the pipeline that had not yet reached decision stage.</p> <p>Ms Page—Yes.</p>
LGRD 03	29/05/08	61	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—In all this deliberation that the minister took several days to arrive at the conclusion that he had better ask the proponents, what were the reasons that were discussed that he thought the proponents might not want this information released?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—As you know, I have been here almost all day, so I have not been privy to all of the discussion or even much of the discussion around this in the minister’s office. But I am happy to take that on notice and come back to you with an answer from Minister Albanese.</p>
LGRD 04	29/05/08	62-63	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Perhaps the cold shivers were leaking to the bottom but I will take the minister up on his offer to find out for me how it was that Mr Turnour knew of this information when we were arguing and desperately trying to get the information from the minister.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Senator Macdonald was saying that he was happy to take it that I would seek information about the Mr Turnour situation. I was adding, perhaps, Mr Hartsuyker. We are happy to ascertain information for Senator Macdonald on that matter—</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—On how Mr Turnour was aware of the information when this committee was struggling to convince you—</p>
LGRD 05	29/05/08	65	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—A useful day without the parliamentary secretary. Did the parliamentary secretary or anyone in his office at any stage think to apply for a pair for an hour? Given that these people had been flown in at government expense from all the way around the country and were put up overnight, did nobody think to go and ask the whip to perhaps give him a pair?</p> <p>Mr James—It is not a question I can answer.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Perhaps somebody could take that on notice and come back to us because this just looks like a bungle, quite frankly.</p>
LGRD 06	29/05/08	71	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—Was one of those issues concerns raised regarding funding levels and the possible problems of trading while insolvent?</p> <p>Mr James—I was not there. I would have to take that on notice and talk to the person who was.</p>

LGRD 07	29/05/08	75	HUTCHINS	<p>Senator Conroy—They do not have to provide a prospectus to you to get the million dollars?</p> <p>Ms Page—The contract set out a series of milestones of various tasks under the contract which were to be achieved before the next stage of funding would be provided. If at the end we cannot get an acquitted statement then there is scope, as there is with all projects, to take legal action to recover the funds, and from time to time we do that. At this stage, however, I have no reason to understand that there is an issue.</p> <p>Senator HUTCHINS—I do not quite grasp these milestones. What is this idea of milestones?</p> <p>Ms Page—I think the best thing for us to do is to provide you with advice on what the actual milestones in relation to this contract were, but typically we do not provide funding for projects in a lump sum upfront. In advance of need, we calculate a schedule of payments based on the progress of the project.</p>
LGRD 08	29/05/08	80	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—It could not get the nod before. It was so bad it was withdrawn. Tell me about the Dysart sports project.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Was it an election commitment?</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I thought it was also an application for the regional partnerships which did not get a favourable response. I am choosing my words carefully. Perhaps it was also withdrawn.</p> <p>Ms Page—We do not have those projects that were still under consideration.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—As far as you are aware, it was not rejected? I am happy for you to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator NASH—I can remember having this discussion at last estimates and there was a very clear understanding that it had been rejected.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—That is my recollection.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I am going to hand it to the officials at the moment.</p> <p>Ms Page—We have to take that on notice.</p>
LGRD 09	29/05/08	80-81	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—What you are telling me is that no instructions were given to you by the minister or the parliamentary secretary, but you are also telling me that you did not give instructions to the ACCs not to talk to members of parliament?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I am happy to take on notice what you asked about the minister or the parliamentary secretary?</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I am just eliminating the department first of all.</p> <p>Ms Page—I certainly gave no instructions to ACCs, nor would I.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Neither you nor any of your officers?</p> <p>Ms Page—Certainly to the best of my knowledge no staff member has and I would be extraordinarily surprised if they had, because it had no authority.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I just want to eliminate you as a suspect.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I can take on notice your question. I have no information on that.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—You have no information.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Are you alleging that there is?</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—No. I am not alleging anything, but I wonder if the department knows if the minister or parliamentary secretary has issued that instruction.</p> <p>Ms Page—No, I do not.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Thank you, Minister, you will take that on notice and get back to me on that.</p>

LGRD 10	29/05/08	85	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Can you let me know why a city with growth rates is being especially dealt with, as opposed to a large regional town with particular growth rates?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I am happy to seek further information and, if it is available before the end of the evening, get it to you, otherwise I will take that on notice. I am happy to try and get it.</p>
LGRD 11	29/05/08	86	HUTCHINS	<p>Senator HUTCHINS—Ms Page, I would like to know what the milestones were, because this company clearly met them if you gave them the payment three months after they closed.</p> <p>Ms Page—We can provide that on notice.</p>
LGRD 12	29/05/08	86	HUTCHINS	<p>Senator HUTCHINS—We have got this company, Indigo Cheese. I am sure you will have to take this on notice. Have we got other companies or other people who were recipients of grants from the Dairy Regional Assistance Program that equally went bust and we still paid money to them after they had ceased operating?</p> <p>Ms Page—We would have to take that on notice.</p>
LGRD 13	29/05/08	89	ADAMS	<p>Senator ADAMS—Could you take on notice the number of rorts that have been discovered by the audit and how many Regional Partnerships funded projects and projects that have been in the system have not been rorted? I have had a number of local government people ring me and just say how disgusted they are that they are all considered to be rorters. I can assure you that I spend a lot of time going through the projects that I actually endorse. There is no way that I will write a letter of recommendation to any project that I have not gone through and looked very carefully into.</p>
LGRD 14	29/05/08	91	ADAMS	<p>Senator ADAMS—Minister, would it be possible for me to have the number of Western Australian projects that have been cast aside?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Could you have what?</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—They have been told no more, that is it; they will not be reviewed, and that is the end.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I think you may not have been here when we discussed this. What we are doing, in the past program, allocations that are passed have obviously been public information. In the past, applications that have failed and the previous government's policy was not to release them on the basis that it might be a little embarrassing—</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—That is fine, I just want the number.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—No; so there is a grey area around ones that were never assessed. We are writing to all of those asking them if we can release that information to the Senate committee. They are happy and comfortable.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—That is not the question; I just want to know the number.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—No, I am just giving you the background, because you were not here.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—I was here; I heard that.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—But I do not think we actually have that information at the table, so I am happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—Take it on notice?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Yes.</p>

LGRD 15	29/05/08	91-92	ADAMS	<p>Senator ADAMS—Thank you very much. On a specific project, I would like confirmation that the Gnowangerup Community and Medical Centre project is a medical infrastructure project of the Western Australian Great Southern Area Consultative Committee; and has that gone across to DoHA?</p> <p>Mr Angley—Sorry, could you say that again please?</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—It is very difficult; it is called Gnowangerup; it is one of the number of ‘up’ places in WA.</p> <p>Ms Page—No, senator, that has not been passed across. We are not aware of the status of that project.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—Well, we have huge problems associated with that one. It is a small community in the Great Southern, the problem being they have a medical centre that is full of asbestos. They have a doctor and a pharmacist in the town; they are the only doctor and pharmacist—the catchment is huge—for that particular area.</p> <p>Mr Carmichael—Senator, if it is application, we are negotiating for all the applications to go across, but it does not seem like it is an approved not contracted project. So, it is not that it will not go across; it is just that we are in the process of negotiating all the RMIF applications, and they will all go across once we have permission from the proponents to send them across.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—This one worries me because it is a community centre, and it was under the Regional Partnerships, but it also has the medical centre involved with that community centre.</p> <p>Ms Page—It could be that it is an RP project rather than an RMIF one.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—I think it is.</p> <p>Ms Page—Particularly if it involves removal of asbestos. I think we will just have to take that one on notice to tell you the status of that project.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—It is a very important one, simply because the medical centre was to be involved with the library, toy library, telecentre and complementary medicine, but the underpinning of that one, because of the asbestos, is the fact that, if the doctor is no longer resident and working in Gnowangerup, the pharmacist will no longer be there, and as with all rural communities, the pharmacist is reliant completely on a doctor. If the doctor is not in town, they lose the pharmacist as well. So, I am very perturbed about that particular project. If you could just note it, please?</p> <p>Ms Page—Yes, we will take that on notice and advise you what category that project fits into.</p>
LGRD 16	29/05/08	92	ADAMS	<p>Senator ADAMS—Another very small project that was under assessment prior to budget is the Peaceful Bay Sea Rescue. Peaceful Bay is a little community right down on the southern coast, and the problem is that it has six times its population during the summer season. This project was for a rescue boat; they already have their shed from Regional Partnerships. They have to use their own boats to go out and rescue people who come from the metropolitan area and other areas and who are not familiar with that coastline. It can be very rugged, the weather changes dramatically, and this project is really and truly more of a safety issue than anything. The project has raised \$250,000 overall; they are asking for \$25,000.</p> <p>Ms Page—We will take the status of that project on notice.</p>
LGRD 17	29/05/08	96	PARRY	<p>Senator PARRY—If I could just deal with the original application prior to withdrawal. Do we know the value of the original application prior to the withdrawal of that application? What was being sought in the way of funding?</p> <p>Ms Page—I think we will have to take that on notice. It is quite sometime ago.</p>

LGRD 18	29/05/08	100	PARRY	<p>Senator PARRY—The million dollar question, minister, is: do these five programs I have just highlighted, which would have a bill of some two point something million dollars, without adding it up—will these five projects come from the Better Regions program?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I am not in a position to announce that.</p> <p>Senator PARRY—Can it now be taken on notice?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—What you can take home is that they will be funded. Which program they will be funded from, we will take on notice and let you know.</p>
LGRD 19	29/05/08	106	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—How pretentious—the Tree of Knowledge. How pretentious, and how even more pretentious it is that you think you can open a museum and the public will come to it.</p> <p>CHAIR—Is there a question, Senator McGauran?</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—The question is: have you done a business plan?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Oh dear. I am sorry, are you actually asking me the details of an election commitment? I would have to genuinely take that on notice; I do not have that detail.</p>
LGRD 20	29/05/08	106	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Blind Freddy can see that it is in the marginal seat of Flynn, this grant. But there is another museum in the marginal seat of Flynn, and was there any consideration of at least just linking up with this museum and using one of their roots?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I will have to take that on notice. I am afraid I have no information on that.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—The other museum is the dinosaur museum; I would have thought it fitted very neatly.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I said I would take it on notice.</p>
LGRD 21	29/05/08	107	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—I have a picture here of the dead stump of knowledge being jacked out of the ground. Is it where the museum is going to go, or are you going to go looking for this stump? Is the museum going to be fitted around the stump?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—You know you are asking details which, as you know, I—</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Well, for \$2.6 million, why would you ask for details?</p> <p>CHAIR—Senator McGauran, you have asked the minister a question; please let him answer it.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Why can I not ask details about a \$2.6 million project?</p> <p>CHAIR—Let him answer it, please Senator McGauran.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—You can, and I am taking them on notice. I just do not have them. But I am actually looking for the details which I did partially read out, and in deference to Senator Macdonald, I did not read out all of it, but I do have a detailed note on what the actual money is for. So I am just looking at that to respond to your questions.</p>
LGRD 22	29/05/08	108	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Will it be funded by Better Regions?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—As I said, we will take that on notice. We have not made those decisions.</p>

LGRD 23	29/05/08	110	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—There are three projects I just want to bring to your attention to seek the status of each one. In Ballarat there was a pre-election commitment for the Ballarat Aquatic Centre of \$1.5 million. Is that to be funded under Better Regions? It cannot be found for love nor money in the budget?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—We will take it on notice. As we have indicated, that those decisions have not been made yet.</p>
LGRD 24	29/05/08	110	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Two Regional Partnerships applications were—at least they got into the department—the Gippsland Stratford RSL Hall, to redevelop it into a community hall, and the Sale TAFE, a \$5 million application to move the Sale TAFE into Sale and to build certain sporting facilities. It must be just on the outer regions. What is the status for those two projects?</p> <p>Ms Page—I think we will have to take those on notice, as with Senator Adams’s projects, and advise you of their status.</p>
LGRD 25	29/05/08	110	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—He said he would take some questions on notice. I was quite serious about where is the dead stump of knowledge now—</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Is it in the same place? Also—</p> <p>CHAIR—You have asked that and the minister has said that he will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—I want to be sure. Also, those measurements that I judged it at, I want to know whether it is a four foot stump, or not?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—We will endeavour to gain as much information as we can on notice.</p>
LGRD 26	29/05/08	111	FISHER	<p>Senator FISHER—They are not on the list of 86.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—They were just applications that were never assessed?</p> <p>Senator FISHER—That is actually a question I want to ask you, but if I provide you with the details—</p> <p>Senator Conroy—That is fine.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—of the projects I would welcome that information coming back as soon as possible to clarify it for the applicants. One application was in respect of the Ceduna airport redevelopment, a project worth over \$6 million. The Regional Partnerships request was for \$1 million. Port Lincoln foreshore redevelopment is the second project. The total project value was about \$1.5 million and the Regional Partnerships request was \$441,000. The final project also in the federal electorate of Grey was a KESAB, APY Lands Palya, cleaner communities project; total project value \$363,000 and the Regional Partnerships request was \$228,000. In respect of those three—</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Obviously, I will have to take the finer details of that on notice. I am happy to get back to you as quick as we can. I suspect—and departmental officials might want to jump in—</p> <p>Mr Angley—No, I think they must be applications—</p> <p>Senator Conroy—They are all, we suspect, in the category that is described as applications that have never been assessed. But if we find anything different from that or there is any other information we can find, we will.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—My information is that the applications were submitted between May and September 2007.</p>

LGRD 27	29/05/08	111	FISHER	<p>Senator FISHER—The final project that falls into that category about which I would like the details as to the status is an application in respect of the Concordia Kindergarten in Murray Bridge in South Australia in the electorate of Barker. It was an application that would have extended part of the kindergarten facilities. It is actually a project that had been the subject of discussion, as I understand it, between the Regional Partnerships team and the project proponents for approximately two years. It is actually a project that the South Australian government had agreed to partly fund, in fact, fund to the tune of \$40,000—</p> <p>Senator Conroy—We are happy to come back for that. I am happy to find out whatever information we can on that for you.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—Obviously, that community is in some difficulty trying to work out what to do with partially progressed state government money, so I would appreciate details as to the status of that application.</p>
LGRD 28	29/05/08	112	FISHER	<p>Senator FISHER—To the extent that Mr Gray’s letter reflected a standard, are you able to provide the committee tonight with that standard?</p> <p>Mr Anglely—Could I check on that?</p> <p>Ms Page—We do not have a copy of the signed letter at this stage.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—Minister, to the extent that Mr Gray’s letter to the list of 86 was a standard letter, are you able to procure a copy for the committee tonight?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Parliament has risen in the House of Representatives and I think both minister Albanese and—</p> <p>Senator FISHER—Minister. Minister, I think—</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Parliamentary Secretary Gray have left the building.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—I think you have heard about the importance of this issue to the communities concerned.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I will take that on notice and endeavour to get as much information to you as fast as we can.</p>
LGRD 29	29/05/08	118	ADAMS	<p>Senator ADAMS—The other one is the Kojonup medical centre—a fairly recent one—for \$400,000. That was put under rural and regional partnerships. I just wonder whether you have received it and whether you know anything about the medical centre in Kojonup in the great southern.</p> <p>Ms Page—I think we will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—If you could take that on notice, I would be very keen to know. Thank you very much.</p>
LGRD 30	29/05/08	119	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—I do understand that. Minister, given that it did not get to the approval stage, could I ask you to perhaps take this one to the relevant department—I do not know if that would be aged care or which department it would be—and see if there is not some funding bucket for this project. I know there is \$494 million sitting there and everybody would want to be asking for that project. But I think this is one that, given the circumstances, could do with some quick and speedy assessment if we could find somewhere to place it.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I am happy to take that matter up with Minister Albanese and see if there are potential alternative buckets that you describe.</p>

LGRD 31	29/05/08	122	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—Why, then, would it be that the parliamentary secretary, Gary Gray, would have called a proponent yesterday to advise him that his project would be going ahead? That is circumventing the process, wouldn't you say?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I am happy to take that on notice and raise it with Mr Gray.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Do you not think it is very curious and interesting that, having discussed the process at length to the 31st, the parliamentary secretary responsible for this has as recently as yesterday advised a proponent that their project would be going ahead?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Well, that is—</p> <p>Senator NASH—You are not aware of that, Minister?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Obviously not.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Obviously not. I would say obviously not.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I will happily take it on notice and raise it with Mr Gray.</p> <p>Senator NASH—I am sure you will. Could you come back to the committee with a very clear and distinct answer on why that advice was given to the proponent. Thank you, Minister.</p>
LGRD 32	29/05/08	123	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—And there has been no decision made to extend it?</p> <p>Mr James—I am not aware of any.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Minister, is that going to be looked at, do you know?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I will take that on notice.</p>
LGRD 33	29/05/08	124-125	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Your department provides a secretariat. Who are the people on this?</p> <p>Ms Page—We can either provide that or take it on notice.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Ms Page—Mr James can provide you with advice on the members of the interim board of RDA.</p> <p>Mr James—Would you like them?</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—On notice, please, because we are running out of time.</p>
LGRD 34	29/05/08	125	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Can I ask the department to provide on notice the written instructions upon which they are working when they consider—</p> <p>Senator Conroy—We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Regional Development Australia.</p>
LGRD 35	29/05/08	126	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Minister, is there any reason why the north-west of Western Australia, which contributes to a very substantial part of Australia's export earnings, is not included?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—I will take that on notice and inquire for you.</p>

LGRD 36	29/05/08	126	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Yes. I have it now. There is \$2 million a year for the next four years. And that is to run the offices?</p> <p>Mr Anglely—Yes. It is to run the offices and contribute to the work of the office.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—And what do you currently spend per year on the departmental offices? I suspect not in a separate line item in the budget but within your internal budget, what do you currently spend?</p> <p>Ms Page—I would have to take that on notice.</p>
LGRD 37	29/05/08	126-127	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—And how many staff do you currently have in Townsville and Cairns?</p> <p>Ms Page—I would be guessing, but it is of the order of probably about eight in Townsville and I think two or three in Darwin.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Could you just confirm that if you find out what you are currently spending, you could find out what the current staffing arrangement is for them.</p>
LGRD 38	29/05/08	127-128	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—The minister seems to have gone missing in action again. Was there ever an office in the past in Cairns?</p> <p>Ms Page—I will have to take that on notice.</p>
LGRD 39	29/05/08	128	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Sure, that is in relation to the existing offices. My question, which I will ask you to take on notice, seeing that the minister is not here, is why Townsville and Darwin were selected. Certainly, I am delighted about Townsville, my home base, but I wonder what the rationale for Townsville and Darwin was as opposed to, for example, Cairns and Katherine. So if you could take that on notice.</p>
LGRD 40	29/05/08	129	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—The dirty dogs. I understand, because Senator Macdonald has asked some pretty good questions on the department's development of the north, that obviously there will need to be a strong connection into the untapped potential of a lot of the Indigenous freehold land up there for economic opportunity. As I said last night, plain as the nose on your face, there is a need in Australia to get some downstream development, fertiliser, et cetera, off the North-West Gas Shelf, and how you hub that up will be an argument amongst the various players there. But there is a lot of information, which a decent administrative office rather than the scientists can already put together through those departments, which is in isolated silos all over the place. I thought that the previous government had allocated to the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO or someone—was it \$50 million to look at some work on the Great Artesian Basin?</p> <p>Mr Anglely—Yes, I am pretty sure you are right about that. I do remember that being a budget measure a couple of years ago.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—I wonder what happened to that money?</p> <p>Mr Anglely—I could provide you with some written advice on that.</p>
LGRD 41	29/05/08	129	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—There are some pockets of money that are in the system now. Rather than go through a great long spiel again tonight, I suppose the best way to summarise it is, could we have an update?</p>

LGRD 43	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>Is the following quote (in bold) from David Koch, co-host of Channel Seven's Sunrise Program Wednesday 20th May 2008 Transcript of David Koch at 8.07 am an accurate reflection of the conversation between Minister Albanese and Mr Koch?</p> <p><i>"Just a quick update this time yesterday we were talking to, Anthony Albanese, the new Federal Minister about the scrapping in the budget of the Regional Partnerships programme that has affected so many communities and community projects who thought they were promised money and now its gone out the window quite a fiery discussion with Albo as Joe Hockey calls him yesterday, he gave me a call last night at home and said that he didn't realise how many community groups were affected he said their understanding is that the whole partnerships program was a bit of a rort but there are some really good community projects in there so he is going to fast track the examination of all the applications and do it quickly which is a terrific assurance and to back that up Ken Wilson remember he was the one yesterday with the playground in Bundaberg that was affected; Ken sent me an email yesterday afternoon saying that he had received a personal phone call yesterday from Anthony Albanese who said he'd personally read the file and is looking at finding alternative sources of funding for it, no promises but he is looking..."</i></p>
LGRD 44	n/a	Written	NASH	Which of the 590 Regional Partnerships projects abolished by the Government will be subjected to a fast tracked examination and which will be funded?
LGRD 45	n/a	Written	NASH	Will they be funded through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government?
LGRD 46	n/a	Written	NASH	Given the Minister's personal assurances in two telephone calls to Ken Wilson who has been fighting for the disabled playground in Bundaberg which was approved for Regional Partnerships funding but was axed in the Budget; that the Minister had personally read the file and is looking at finding alternative sources of funding for the disabled playground, what action has the Department taken on the Minister's personal commitment to Mr Wilson?
LGRD 47	n/a	Written	NASH	Is this the only Regional Partnerships file that the Minister has personally read?
LGRD 48	n/a	Written	NASH	Which of the other 115 community based RP projects approved but not contracted and subsequently abolished will be subjected to fast-tracked examination by the Government?
LGRD 49	n/a	Written	NASH	Which of the 490 community driven RP projects which were awaiting consideration prior to the Budget will be subject of a fast-tracked examination?
LGRD 50	n/a	Written	NASH	Isn't it a fact that the only reason for the late night phone call to David Koch of the Sunrise program and the fast tracking of the examination of Regional Partnership projects by the Minister a result of the negative publicity surrounding the disable children's playground in Queensland on the Seven Sunrise Program?
LGRD 51	n/a	Written	NASH	When was a new review (or fast track examination) of the 116 community based RP projects which were approved but subsequently slashed by the Government ordered? (provide a date) *116 projects is the figure given in the February Budget Estimates.
LGRD 52	n/a	Written	NASH	What are the terms of reference for this fast track examination and who will be undertaking the review?

LGRD 53	n/a	Written	NASH	Had the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary actually reviewed any of the 116 community driven projects which were approved by the Government but since abolished by Labor Government prior to the Budget being handed down?
LGRD 54	n/a	Written	NASH	What has the Department been doing for the past six months with the Regional Partnerships programme if the Minister was not aware there were some really good community projects in the Regional Partnerships?
LGRD 55	n/a	Written	NASH	Did the Department actually undertake a review of the Regional Partnerships Programme?
LGRD 56	n/a	Written	NASH	What were the terms of reference for that review?
LGRD 57	n/a	Written	NASH	Please table all the findings of that review and the names of the people within the Department who undertook that review?
LGRD 58	n/a	Written	NASH	Given the Minister told David Koch of the Seven Sunrise program on the 20 th May that his ' <i>understanding is that the whole partnerships program was a bit of a rort</i> ' which projects does the Minister, or Parliament Secretary believe were rorts?
LGRD 59	n/a	Written	NASH	Did the Department have concerns that any of the 116 community inspired projects approved by the Government but since abolished because they had not been contracted, were projects which were 'rorts' and if so which projects did the Department identify as rorts?
LGRD 60	n/a	Written	NASH	What is happening with projects which were approved for funding under the Darling Matilda Way Sustainable Regions programme but subsequently cancelled?
LGRD 61	n/a	Written	NASH	Will the Government make them the same offer they have made to the 86 Regional Partnerships projects which were approved, but not contracted, cancelled and then re-instated?
LGRD 62	n/a	Written	NASH	How much will it cost to re-instate the 86 Regional Partnerships projects? Will there need to be an additional budget allocation or will the funding come from the existing budget?
LGRD 63	n/a	Written	NASH	Has the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary issued any instructions to the Department or Area Consultative Committee staff not to talk to Members of Parliament, Local Government, the media or any other group or individual about individual projects under the Regional Partnership which have been abolished?
LGRD 64	n/a	Written	NASH	Why did the Department for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government in Canberra and the Area Consultative Committees (ACC) refuse to provide a list of projects affected by the decision to abolish the Regional Partnerships Programme to the Western Australian Local Government and Shires Association?
LGRD 65	n/a	Written	NASH	Who refused to give the Western Australian Local Government and Shires Association a list of affected RP projects and under whose instructions?
LGRD 66	n/a	Written	NASH	What is the Better Regions Programme and can any community group apply for funding under this programme?
LGRD 67	n/a	Written	NASH	How much funding has been allocated to the Better Regions Programme?

LGRD 68	n/a	Written	NASH	I refer to Budget Related Paper NO.1.13 page 62 under the heading Better Regions which states; <i>Better Regions: which delivers on the Government's 2007 election commitments...</i> Has any funding been allocated to projects in the 07-08 financial year? If so, which Projects have been funded, approved or contracted?
LGRD 69	n/a	Written	NASH	Provide a breakdown electorate by electorate of each of the 105 projects promised to be funded by the Government under the Better Regions Programme prior to the last election including the amount of funding promised by the Government?
LGRD 70	n/a	Written	NASH	Please provide an electorate by electorate breakdown of each project to be funded under the Better Regions Programme, its value (Commonwealth contribution) and the total value of the project, and what year the project will be funded.
LGRD 71	n/a	Written	NASH	What due diligence has been undertaken for each of these projects?
LGRD 72	n/a	Written	NASH	How many projects will be funded by the Better Regions Programme?
LGRD 73	n/a	Written	NASH	Have letters been sent to Better Regions proponents? If not when will they be sent?
LGRD 74	n/a	Written	NASH	Will these letters include an offer of funding?
LGRD 75	n/a	Written	NASH	I refer you to a Doorstop media interview with Kevin Rudd on Friday 16 th November, 2007 in relation to approvals under a Rudd Government for the Regional Partnerships Program he states: <i>Rudd: "...is that it must pass through three stages. Number One, for anything to be considered by us under this programme it would need to have the endorsement of either a) the local council, b) the local Area Consultative Committee, or c) the State Government. Secondly, it would need to form part of that community's local economic or community infrastructure, and thirdly it would then need to pass the departmental seal of approval in order for it to proceed."</i> <i>Journalist: ...Ministers wouldn't be able to overturn the recommendations of the department, is that what you are saying?</i> <i>Rudd: "According to the three stage procedure I've outlined, absolutely."</i> How will this policy be implemented? How many projects were given as election commitments and what is the dollar value by the Government prior to 24 th of November with the funding to come from a Regional Partnership type program to be known as the 'Better Regions' Program'? Given the statements made by Kevin Rudd (<i>see above quote</i>) how will the Government deliver on its election commitments? Will it bypass the three stages as outlined by the Prime Minister?

LGRD 76	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>Is it a fact an election commitment of \$2.6 million was made by the Government to fund the Barcaldine Tree of Knowledge project?</p> <p>Isn't it a fact that this project has already been rejected by the Department? How will this election commitment be fulfilled? Has the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary personally intervened in this project to ensure that the \$8 million tender could be advertised?</p> <p>Isn't it a fact this project has now called for tenders for the \$8 million project? Has the Government allocated any funding yet to the project or approved funding for this project?</p>
LGRD 77	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>How many regional Partnership projects were approved by the Government in the 06-07 and 07 – 08 financial years? (including Sustainable Regions projects and Regional Medical Infrastructure Fund)</p> <p>How many have been approved since the Caretaker period began last year?</p> <p>How many projects have been approved since November 24th 2007?</p> <p>How many of these projects have been announced and the successful applicant been informed but were awaiting contracts to be signed?</p> <p>How many contracts for RP projects have been finalised this financial year and the funding paid to the organisations?</p>
LGRD 78	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>Provide an electorate by electorate breakdown of all Regional Partnerships projects which were funded in the 07/08 financial year and also the ones which will be funded in the 08/09 financial year? Include a dollar breakdown of the Federal Government's contribution and the dollar contribution which other parties were making to the project.</p> <p>Provide an electorate by electorate breakdown of all RP projects which were approved by the Government in 07/08 but were not contracted. Include a dollar breakdown of the Federal Government's contribution and the dollar contribution which other parties were making to the project.</p> <p>Provide an electorate by electorate breakdown of 490 RP projects which were awaiting approval by the Department in 07 – 08 but were subsequently abolished. Include a dollar breakdown of the Federal Government's contribution and the dollar contribution which other parties were making to the project.</p> <p>Why has \$41.485 million been allocated in 2008-09 for Regional Partnerships when the Minister's Media release clearly states that the Regional Partnerships programme has been abolished?</p> <p>(*note budget paper Portfolio Budget Statements 2008 – 09, Budget Related Paper No 1.13 states \$73.131 million estimated actual allocated in 07-08 and a further \$41.485 million estimated to be allocated in 08-09 for Regional Partnerships).</p> <p>(**Would like to get an overall value of how much these projects were worth broken down by contributors: ie the Government has ripped \$xxx million out of the community)</p>

LGRD 79	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>Who undertook the review prior to the Budget being handed down in May of the 116 projects identified during the last Budget Estimates earlier this year that had been approved but not contracted? What was the nature of this review?</p> <p>Were any of these projects found to have ‘rorted’ the Regional Partnerships Programme, had any abnormalities or were found they should not have been funded during the review?</p> <p>Similarly of the 490 projects which were awaiting approval how many of these were reviewed and by whom?</p> <p>Were any of these projects found to have ‘rorted’ the Regional Partnerships Programme, had any abnormalities or were found they should not have been put forward for funding during the review?</p> <p>Did the review look at what sort of effort, time and money was put into making a funding submission under the Regional Partnerships Programme?</p> <p>What is the average time spent by community organisations in getting a Regional Partnership Programme up to a standard it could be approved for funding?</p>
LGRD 80	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>Since the Budget was handed down has the Department begun reviewing any of the 116 projects approved by the Government but since abandoned and now reinstated?</p> <p>Hasn’t the Ministers office order a new review of these projects?</p> <p>Will the Government be funding any of these projects following this new review?</p> <p>How were the 116 individual projects informed that they would not be receiving their promised funding?</p> <p>What has been the reaction from proponents of the projects?</p> <p>How much has the Department spent on Media monitoring this issue (please provide all media monitoring transcripts both electronic and press ordered by the Department or Ministers/Parl Sec’s office over the last six months and specifically any in relation to the Regional Partnerships Programme)</p> <p>How many of the 116 projects approved by the Government were approved under the Rural Medical Infrastructure Fund, the Sustainable Regions Programme or RP program?</p> <p>Provide an outline of the nature of each of the 116 projects approved by the Government but since abandoned by the Government, and subsequently reinstated.</p> <p>How many projects which have been approved by the Government have had to be abandoned because the Government has not offered them a contract?</p>

LGRD 81	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>Which of the 116 projects approved for funding by the Government but later abandoned and subsequently reinstated have been personally contacted by the Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary?</p> <p>How many have been contacted by the department and which ones?</p> <p>Has the Department contacted any of the 116 projects approved by the Government but later abandoned and then reinstated or the 474 projects under consideration with advice on where else they can seek funding?</p> <p>Have they shared any of the applicants information with any other Department and have any of those departments contacted any of these community groups to offer assistance?</p> <p>Which community groups have been contacted by outside departments and can you provide a breakdown of what assistance was offered?</p>
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LGRD 82	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>Were members of the Executive Officers Group of the Area Consultative Committee brought to Canberra on Tuesday 27th of May 2008 (earlier this week) for a meeting with the Parliamentary Secretary, Gary Grey at 4pm?</p> <p>Is it a fact that the Parliamentary Secretary booked a committee room for this meeting?</p> <p>How many members of the Executive Officers Group travelled to Canberra for this meeting and where did they travel from? (they came from around Australia)</p> <p>How much did it cost to fly this group to Canberra? Was Travel Allowance paid for overnight stays?</p> <p>Isn't it a fact that the Executive officers waited for over an hour in the Committee room for the Parliamentary Secretary, before Marcus James a Departmental Officer phoned the Parliamentary Secretary's office only to be told that Parl Sec Gary Grey had forgotten about the meeting and wouldn't be able to attend?</p> <p>What was the cost for this debacle and who picked up the bill? Will the Department apologise to these hard working staff for wasting their time and effort?</p> <p>What will be the role of Area Consultative Committee (ACC) staff over the next 12 months? Why is this valuable resource being left out to dry with nothing to do?</p> <p>Has a letter been sent from the Minister to the ACC network with advice on what he wants the ACC network to do between now and the end of the Calendar year?</p> <p>What has the ACC staff been doing for the past six months?</p> <p>Have concerns been raised by the Area Consultative Committee representatives regarding funding levels and the possible problems of trading while insolvent as a result of the Government only allocating 50 percent of the Area Consultative Committees funding in the first week of July, not 60% which has been past practise?</p> <p>Will there be any job losses in any of the ACC's in the next financial year?</p> <p>Will there be any job losses when the ACC's cease to exist from 1st January 2008?</p> <p>Are you aware of any ACC Board members from the 54 ACC around the country who have resigned as a result of the Government's decision to abolish the Regional Partnerships Programme, in particular the Government decision not to fund community projects approved but not contracted?</p> <p>Will the Government be sacking the current board members of the Local Area Consultative Committees from the 1st of January 2008?</p> <p>What will be the function of the Government election commitment to create new Authority called Regional Development Australia?</p> <p>How much will this new body cost to set up? How many staff will it employ?</p> <p>How will Board members be appointed and what will be their qualifications?</p>
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LGRD 83	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>Where has the Regional Medical Infrastructure Fund previously under the Regional Partnership Programme been located?</p> <p>Will the organisations who have applied for funding under the Regional Partnerships programme for Regional Medical Infrastructure Funding have to reapply for funding or will all current applications be handed to the Department of Health to be processed?</p> <p>Please provide a breakdown by electorate of all projects previously applied for under the Regional Partnerships Regional Medical Infrastructure Fund which were either approved but not contracted or were awaiting consideration?</p> <p>Has the Department contacted any of these projects to inform them that funding is available from the Department of Health? If not, why not?</p>
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LGRD 84	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>MAJOR CITIES UNIT: In a Media Release dated 30 April 2008 UNLOCKING THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF OUR URBAN COMMUNITIES; the Minister announced the establishment of a new Major Cities Unit to be established in his Department. Where within the Department will this Unit be located?</p> <p>How much funding has the Major Cities Unit been allocated?</p> <p>What is the role of the Major Cities Unit?</p> <p>Will the Major Cities Unit be responsible for any grants?</p> <p>How many staff will be employed by the Major Cities Unit?</p> <p>Will the Major Cities Unit have a Board appointed? Has the Board been appointed? What qualifications will Board Members need?</p> <p>What constitutes a Major City and which cities will be included?</p> <p>Budget Papers: Assisting Regions and Local Government to Develop and Manage Their Futures</p> <p>Output 3.1.1: Regional Development Policy and Programs</p> <p>Improving regional women's representation in decision making <i>Page 61</i></p> <p>Given the Labor government is abolishing the improving regional women's representation in decision making program, what alternative assistance will be provided for women in this area?</p> <p>How much funding will be provided for an alternative program? What impact will this have on women in regional areas?</p> <p>What impact will this have on women in regional areas when combined with the fact that the Labor government has also abolished the DAFF AAA Advancing Agricultural Industries</p> <p>Programme Pathways to Participation, which helped women in portfolio industries gain skills and opportunities to enable them to contribute to their industry's decision-making?</p> <p>Is it the case that women in regional Australia now have absolutely no leadership and decision making programs available to them?</p>
LGRD 85	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>Is the Department aware that the abolition of the Regional Partnerships programme is putting the lives of rural and remote people at risk?</p>
LGRD 86	n/a	Written	NASH	<p>Are you aware that the Tuross Rescue Squad in the Electorate of Eden Monaro is a facing a financial emergency after the Government scrapped the Regional Partnerships programme?</p>

NTS 01 (National Transport Strategy)	29/05/08	43	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Is someone genuinely doing the work to make sure that in 20 years time we do not end up like Los Angeles, Brussels or Rotterdam are at the moment?</p> <p>Ms Riggs—Perhaps I could describe two of the elements of the work program for the urban congestion group, which is led by Victoria, to illustrate the fact that we are bringing forward practical and helpful tools and information to assist planners, to assist governments in making decisions and to make them aware of the array of measures that might be available to them. Some work will be done jointly, potentially, between both the climate change group and the urban congestion group on guidelines to ensure a better integration of transport and land use planning. The second element is a piece of advice for transport ministers on the impacts and practicality of the range of pricing options available to assist them in better managing urban congestion.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Thank you for that. That is interesting. If you have other things to say I would appreciate that on notice</p>
OTS 01 (Office of Transport Security)	28/05/08	23-24	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—I suppose so. This may be a question for you. One of the things I am fascinated by at Sydney Airport is that you can actually still drive a truck onto the airport if you have a pass without any photographic finger printed evidence that you are the owner of the pass that opens the gate; can you still do that?</p> <p>Mr Tongue—Again, that is more an Office of Transport Security question, but I am happy to handle it now if you would like.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Yes, have a crack at it.</p> <p>Mr Tongue—In part as a result of the Wheeler review, we are continuing to institute what we call airside inspection arrangements. Those involve a range of measures to better manage the movement of people, vehicles and goods into the secure zones of the major airports. That includes vehicle inspection and a range of other processes to address the vulnerability that you are highlighting.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—So is the answer that you could still do that?</p> <p>Mr Tongue—Senator, I would have to check where we are up to at Sydney Airport. I am happy to come back to you. I will find that out. I have got staff watching and I will ask them to check where we are up to at Sydney Airport in terms of the implementation.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—The general security pass, which is swiped, opens the gates. All you have to do is have the pass and it opens the gates.</p> <p>Mr Tongue—At major access points there is also a faced pass check.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—But there are places where you do not get the face.</p> <p>Mr Tongue—Senator, I think we have tightened that one up, but I will ask for some advice.</p>
OTS 02	28/05/08	37	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—Thank you. It does seem that there will be some considerable savings. Is it just Indonesia that will be providing the other aspects of that conference, or will there be people from other nations providing input?</p> <p>Mr Retter—My understanding is that the conference will be for Indonesian officials, with the instruction coming from my staff that it is not involving other agencies at this stage. I will need to check on that information for you.</p>

OTS 03	28/05/08	41	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—I am just reading from the website that the department so often refers us to. The budget allocation of \$3.3 million.</p> <p>Mr Retter—My memory, Senator, is that the allocation of funding for the CCTV trial you spoke of at the regional airports was in financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 and that, as Mr Tongue has alluded to, that trial has ended. The broader issues of how CCTV is carried forward in the aviation environment is now sitting with the Australian Customs Service.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—There is no budget allocation?</p> <p>Mr Retter—We will have to check for you, but my understanding is that out of the range of funding that was provided in the aviation security environment, the specific amounts that you speak about were for earlier financial years.</p>
OTS 04	28/05/08	41	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Ms Page, you have freely recommended or answered questions by referring to your website. Your website is seriously out of date. You are running the old government's budgets.</p> <p>Ms Page—We will check that, Senator.</p>