

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2012

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 184

**Program:** n/a

**Division/Agency:** (MCU) Major Cities Unit

**Topic:** National Cycling Strategy (2005-2010)

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 90 (23/05/12)

**Senator LUDLAM asked:**

**Mr Mrdak:** Last Friday the progress report on the national cycling strategy was presented to Australian transport ministers. I would be happy to provide you with a copy of that.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Thank you.

**Answer:**

Please find attached the link to the National Cycling Strategy 2005-2010.

<http://www.austroads.com.au/abc/annual-reports>

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2012

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 185

**Program:** 1.1

**Division/Agency:** (MCU) Major Cities Unit

**Topic:** Major Cities

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** Written

**Senator McKENZIE asked:**

Answer to QoN 79 explains that the Major Cities Unit uses an ABS definition in the categorising major cities as those with a population over 100,000. According to the ABS, the city of Bendigo had a population in 2011 of 105,563 and first had over 100,000 population in 2008 (3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11 ABS).

1. In light of this, (a) why has Bendigo not been declared a Major City? (b) Will it be declared soon? (c) What is the timeframe?

The ABS ASGC Remoteness Area measure, commonly used across a number of Australian Government departments, lists major cities only as state capitals (and excluding Darwin and Hobart).

2. What ABS measure of Major Cities does the Major Cities Unit use? Please explain the answer to QoN #79 in more detail.
3. Again in reference to QoN #79, please outline what reporting and policy development the Major Cities has undertaken in recent times. According to your website, no new policies have been released for 12 months, and the last report issued was in October 2011.

**Answer:**

1. (a) The Major Cities Unit uses ABS Statistical Districts for reporting non capital cities as opposed to local government areas. The latest estimate for the Bendigo Statistical District was 92,934 in 2011 (3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11 Table 1. Estimated Resident Population, Statistical Districts, Australia ABS). No further figures are available at time of writing.
2. The ABS Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) –Section of State Structure (SOS), (1216.0 - Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) - 2006, Jul 2006 Volume 1).
3. The Major Cities Unit website shows the release of the Urban Design Protocol in November 2011 and the outcomes of the Liveable Cities Program, the assessment of which the Unit was involved with, as well as the 2011 State of Australian Cities report. Further work of the Unit will be released when endorsed by Government.