

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 01

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Project Methodology

Hansard Page: 10 (20/10/09)

Senator Macdonald asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—The projects assessed and recommended by Infrastructure Australia involve billions of dollars of expenditure. When will Infrastructure Australia release the modelling and analysis on the projects that have been approved so that the taxpayers who are paying for them can actually see why some of these projects have been selected and why some have not?

Mr Deegan—The methodology used by Infrastructure Australia is publicly available. The decision as to the release of analysis is a matter for government.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Minister, can that analysis be released so people can understand why various projects have been approved and others have not?

Senator Conroy—I am happy to take that on notice and see if the minister would like to release any further information for you.

Answer:

Infrastructure Australia's methodology is publicly available on the Infrastructure Australia website.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 02

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia
Topic: Infrastructure Australia Methodology
Hansard Page/s: 11 (20/10/09)

Senator Macdonald asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—You say that the cost-benefit analysis that Infrastructure Australia uses to assess infrastructure priorities is publicly available on your website?

Mr Deegan—The methodology is available, yes.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—On your website?

Mr Deegan—Yes, it is.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—You heard the discussion before. I know you do not have a huge staff, but you do have a bigger staff than I do. Could you get a hard copy of that and send it to the committee as a question on notice?

Mr Deegan—Senator, the material is easily printed down—we can circulate that appropriately. There is quite a lot of material and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Yes, thank you.

Answer:

Documents attached:

- *Better Infrastructure Decision Making – Guidelines;*
- *Better Infrastructure Decision Making – Templates 1-6; and*
- *Better Infrastructure Decision Making – Template 7.*

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 03

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Port of Townsville Eastern Port Access Rail Corridor Project

Hansard Page: 13 (20/10/09)

Senator Macdonald asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Thank you for that. I have two more questions before I pass over to others to follow their projects. You may not be familiar—and I am not sure whether this is to Mr Mrdak or Mr Deegan—with the Townsville port eastern access corridor. It is a 6.5 kilometre rail link taking the main line from the north-west mineral province around the town and into the port from the south, rather than going directly through Townsville with all the safety and traffic interruption projects. I understand application has been made to Infrastructure Australia for assistance with that eastern corridor project—\$180 million I think was applied for. As at two or three weeks ago, there had been no response to that. Mr Deegan, have you focused on that at all or are you aware of it?

Mr Deegan—I am not aware of the request made of my office, if that is the case. I look at all the correspondence and I am not aware of that.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—I was told two weeks ago on 29 September that an application had been made to Infrastructure Australia. I am not sure when it was made but obviously some time before that date.

Mr Deegan—We have a practice of responding to all the people who are generous enough to spend their time on these applications. I will take that on notice and come back to you, Senator.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Mr Mrdak, it could have come from Queensland Rail, the QR network, which is of course an independent statutory body.

Mr Deegan—I will have to take it on notice.

Answer:

Submissions regarding the Port of Townsville Eastern Port Access Rail Corridor project were received by Infrastructure Australia in response to a call for public submissions for the development of the National Infrastructure Priority List. Responses to these submissions were provided on 21 January 2009.

The Mount Isa-Townsville Rail Corridor Upgrades project, which includes the Eastern Port Access Rail Corridor Project, was submitted to Infrastructure Australia by the Queensland Government. The corridor was identified as a priority infrastructure pipeline project with real potential in Infrastructure Australia's May 2009 *National Infrastructure Priorities* report. Infrastructure Australia is continuing to work with the Queensland Government on this project.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 04

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Barraba application for funding for water supply project

Hansard Page: 16 (20/10/09)

Senator Williams asked:

Senator WILLIAMS—Have you ever heard a town called Barraba?

Mr Deegan—I know Barraba, yes, Senator.

Senator WILLIAMS—Do you know if Barraba has put in an application for any funding under an Infrastructure Australia recommendation for water supply?

Mr Deegan—I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The Barraba Community Development Group has lodged a submission with Infrastructure Australia for funding of The Split Rock Dam to Barraba Water Pipeline.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 05

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Victorian Projects - Information Provided to Infrastructure Australia

Hansard Page/s: 23 (20/10/09)

Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM—With regard to the projects in Victoria that were actually funded in the last federal budget, could you come back to us with some information about whether all of that information that has actually been withheld from the public domain was made available to Infrastructure Australia? If you like, I can provide the details you some specific documents that have been refused. I will do that after the hearing.

Mr Deegan—Thank you.

Answer:

The documents to which Senator Ludlam refers have not been provided to Infrastructure Australia to date.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 06

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Removal of Casino to Murwillumbah Rail line

Hansard Page: 24 (20/10/09)

Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM—Right. So there is a rail corridor there. The communities in that part of the country actually were created along that rail line. The New South Wales government is now looking at going further than taking the service off the line and taking the line out all together. I realise that your role is mainly about provision of infrastructure, but what role would you play if a government was considering taking out a key piece of infrastructure?

Mr Deegan—There are a range of issues to do with rail in New South Wales and Western Australia in particular—some to do with grain and others to do with passenger transport operations. The extent to which we get involved depends on the long-term national productivity issues associated with those rail lines. We have had discussions with a number of community groups involved in the Casino Murwillumbah process, some of whom sought funding for the rail to be restored from the Commonwealth. You get those tensions between state and Commonwealth governments in those matters. They are productive discussions at the moment. I am not aware of proposals to remove the line but, again, I will take that on notice and see what I can find out.

Answer:

Infrastructure Australia is not aware of proposals to remove the Casino to Murwillumbah rail line.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 07

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Abbot Point Multi-cargo Facility project – Publicly Available Project

Hansard Page: 25 (20/10/09)

Senator Macdonald asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—It is good to see it happening. With respect to Abbot Point at the other end of Queensland—well, not quite the other end—have you received any applications from the Queensland government for the massive amount of work that is proposed for that new power house energy hub of Australia?

Mr Deegan—Yes. On page 10 of our report provided with the budget, we identify the Abbot Point multicargo facility in Queensland as a priority infrastructure pipeline project with real potential and one that we are continuing to work on with the Queensland government.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—What would we see publicly? It is in your report; is that publicly available?

Mr Deegan—Yes.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Is there any more detail anywhere on a website that is publicly available?

Mr Deegan—I will check that for you. I think Queensland have quite a considerable amount of material about the Abbot Point proposal publicly available, but I will check that. I will take that on notice.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Yes. Do not give it to me; just refer me to it. I know that is contrary to what we were saying before, but that would be better in this instance.

Answer:

Information regarding the Abbot Point Multi-cargo project is available on the Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning website and the North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation website.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 08

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Horn Island Airport

Hansard Page: 25-26 (20/10/09)

Senator Macdonald asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Thank you for that. Moving on to the Torres Strait Islands, the airport up there at Horn Island suffers at the moment because you cannot get those Q400 aircraft in and the bigger Dash 8s. As you know, getting to the Torres Strait Islands is entirely dependent upon air transport, which is what the problem with the Q400s is all about. They cannot land at Horn Island, and they have made an application to Infrastructure Australia for assistance. Mr Deegan, are you aware of that?

Mr Deegan—I will take that on notice. A lot of projects are before us, and I will just check whether that has come to us or gone to the department, or both.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Okay. Also, could you give me any update on notice on what is happening at Horn Island. It is a very, very essential piece of infrastructure that ticks a lot of boxes, not just in the infrastructure area but in the social inclusion area as well. I would be interested to see where it is going and perhaps to draw your attention to it. There is what is called an alliance, a northern mayors' alliance, which is really the local government leaders from Northern Queensland. They made a list of submissions to Infrastructure Australia, as I understand it, about a range of projects, such as stage 2 of the Burdekin Falls Dam, the Connors River overflow on the Flinders, the Mount Bedford irrigation project, Port Abbot, which we have mentioned, Peninsula Road, and various others, including the Townsville to Mount Isa railway line, major upgrades, a baseload power station and the Bruce Highway. Mr Deegan, do you recall or are you aware of a sort of group approach for general funding for that area?

Mr Deegan—Yes. A number of parts of the country had local government, state government and, indeed, in some parts, the Commonwealth working together with private sector players to draw together a submission for a whole region. It is certainly an approach that we would encourage because that way you get the whole range of things. South-East Queensland mayors put in a submission; people in the Pilbara have been putting together some sensible work; south-west Western Australia have done so; and I have mentioned before that South Australia and Victoria worked collaboratively together on a project across the border. Some of the issues that Senator Ludlum raised about New South Wales and Queensland is an area where there could be such an approach. We are continuing to work on that northern alliance series of proposals. I understand there are some further discussions next week here in Canberra about some of the energy issues associated with that area in particular. I understand that both members of the department and I will be attending that to get further information and have further discussion with those key players.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Okay. Is that with the mayor, Councillor Les Tyrell?

Mr Deegan—I do not have the names with me, but I could check them.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Answer:

A submission was received by Infrastructure Australia to lengthen the Horn Island runway upgrade in response to a call for public submissions for the development of the National Infrastructure Priority List. The proposal was not included in the projects identified in Infrastructure Australia's May 2009 *National Infrastructure Priorities* report.

Minister Albanese approved \$340,000 towards the Horn Island Airport runway upgrade under Round 3 (2009-10) of the Remote Aerodrome Safety Program (RASP). This funding was contingent on agreement between the Torres Shire Council, which has responsibility for the Airport, and the Queensland Government on the scope of works and total funding required. Discussions between the two parties are continuing on these issues.

Torres Shire Council was also allocated \$100,000 in 2008-09 under the Australian Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP) for geotechnical investigations for the proposed Horn Island runway upgrade.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 09

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Assessment Methodology

Hansard Page: 27 (20/10/09)

Senator Abetz asked:

Senator ABETZ—Minister, will the government provide to the Australian people the modelling and analysis of each project that we are told does exist?

Senator Conroy—I am happy to take that on notice and get the minister's advice.

Answer:

The Infrastructure Australia's methodology is publicly available on the Infrastructure Australia website.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 10

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Funding of Pipeline Projects

Hansard Page: 28 (20/10/09)

Senator Abetz asked:

Senator ABETZ—Can you then explain to me what you meant before when I thought you said the government had agreed to fund certain projects before the full process had been gone through?

Mr Deegan—It is not as black and white as that. These are often complex projects.

Senator ABETZ—I am sure they are very complex.

Mr Deegan—There are a range of issues to deal either with the project financing, the planning approval regime and the delivery mechanisms that might be involved. On a number of occasions the Commonwealth has indicated an interest in taking those projects further.

Senator ABETZ—What projects are they? Are you able to provide us with a list of those?

Mr Deegan—An example would be the Northbridge rail link in Western Australia.

Senator ABETZ—That is one, but can you provide us with a full list?

Mr Deegan—Yes.

Senator ABETZ—You might need to take that on notice.

Mr Deegan—Thank you.

Answer:

Northbridge Rail Link (The Hub); Bruce Highway Corridor (Cooroy to Curra); Brisbane Inner City Rail Capacity (feasibility study funding); and West Metro (proof of concept work).

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 11

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: National Public Private Partnership Policy & Guidelines

Hansard Page: 31 (20/10/09)

Senator Abetz asked:

Senator ABETZ—What were the costs of developing the national public-private partnership policy?

Mr Deegan—I will take that on notice. It would be part of our workload, but I will get that to you. That work was undertaken with both New South Wales and Victorian governments, as well as private sector involvement.

Answer:

The National Public Private Partnership Policy and Guidelines were jointly prepared by the Commonwealth and State government agencies, with some private sector involvement.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 12

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Perth Airport Multi-modal Links Project

Hansard Page: 55 (20/10/09)

Senator Back asked:

Senator BACK—Sure. I have two other brief questions. Can you give us any advice on the Perth Airport multimodal links project or is that actually in Infrastructure Australia?

Ms McNally—I think it is probably more for the airport, the Perth Airport multimodal links project.

Senator BACK—Yes.

Ms McNally—I do not have that information with me, so I can take that on notice.

Answer:

The Perth Airport Multi-modal Links project was identified as a priority infrastructure pipeline project with real potential in Infrastructure Australia's May 2009 *National Infrastructure Priorities* report. Infrastructure Australia is continuing to work with the Western Australian Government on this project.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 13

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia
Topic: Outback Way Road Upgrade project
Hansard Page: 58 (20/10/09)

Senator Macdonald asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—There was not as much in it as I might have hoped, but we are grateful for small mercies. The only other question I want to raise with you on the Nation Building Program is what is called the Outback Way—the road from Winton in Queensland to Laverton in Western Australia, across the centre of Australia and past the Arndaritjika Aboriginal Corporation at Harts Range, which has another local name. The Queensland, Western Australian and Northern Territory governments are putting in bits each year. But it has been put up as a Nation Building Program, I understand, by the Outback Highway Development Council Inc. There is a Friends of the Outback Way group, a parliamentary group, which Senator Crossin and I co-chair. In early September some of us drove from Alice Springs to Winton over part of it. Does it feature anywhere in the Nation Building Program or, if not, in Infrastructure Australia or anywhere else within the department?

Ms O'Connell—We will take on notice whether there is a submission to Infrastructure Australia on it, and I will get back to you on that. In relation to the Nation Building Program, I will ask my colleague to respond.

Answer:

Submissions regarding the Outback Way were received by Infrastructure Australia in response to a call for public submissions for the development of the National Infrastructure Priority List. The proposal was not included in the projects identified in Infrastructure Australia's May 2009 *National Infrastructure Priorities* report.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 14

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Interaction with Tasmanian Government

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Bushby asked:

Has Infrastructure Australia had any interaction with the Tasmanian Government:

- a) prior to the closing date for submissions for the \$22 billion for major infrastructure projects, or
- b) on or after that date, whether by correspondence, submission, electronic means or orally?

Answer:

Infrastructure Australia had interactions with the Tasmanian Government both prior to and after the closing date for submissions for the National Infrastructure Priority List.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 15

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Midland Highway

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Bushby asked:

Has the Tasmanian Government, in any interaction with Infrastructure Australia, ever raised the issue of funding for upgrading the Midlands Highway in Tasmania to a dual carriageway?

Answer:

Yes.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 16

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Public Private Partnerships

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Macdonald/Nash asked:

Contracted PPP Projects

1. How did Infrastructure Australia assess the economic viability and financial prudence of potential PPP infrastructure projects?
2. Can Infrastructure Australia outline the total and individual project value of PPP projects entered into as a consequence of Infrastructure Australia's recommended infrastructure priorities to COAG?
 - a. For each project, what percentage of the total PPP project funding has been made by the Commonwealth?
 - b. Did Infrastructure Australia provide any advice to Treasury regarding the financial and economic viability of the PPP projects entered into by either the Commonwealth or state governments?
3. What is the current status of PPP projects recommended by Infrastructure Australia?

Answer:

1. Infrastructure Australia assessed the economic costs and benefits of all projects submitted to it using its Reform and Investment Framework, as published on the Infrastructure Australia website. This process used, as a key element of analysis, comprehensive economic cost benefit analysis. Infrastructure Australia considered the financial prudence of projects in relation to its strategic priorities, its strategic themes for investment and jurisdictions' own infrastructure plans.
2. n/a.
3. The Gold Coast Rapid Transit project is progressing well.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 17

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Public Private Partnerships

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Macdonald/Nash asked:

State Plans and PPP Projects

1. Has Infrastructure Australia assessed the viability and merits of state infrastructure plans?
 - a. If so, can Infrastructure Australia outline the criteria used to make this assessment?
 - b. If not, then how can Infrastructure Australia justify Commonwealth investment in PPP projects at the state level?

Answer:

Infrastructure Australia assessed the economic costs and benefits of all projects submitted to it using its Reform and Investment Framework, as published on the Infrastructure Australia website.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 18

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia
Topic: Role and Budget of the Major Cities Unit
Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Macdonald/Nash asked:

Major Cities Unit

Budget Issues

1. What are the budget allocations to the Major Cities Unit to 2013-14?
2. How many staff are employed within the Major Cities unit?
3. How much has been spent on consultancies by the Major Cities unit?
4. What have been the tangible outcomes from the cities unit to date?
5. Does Infrastructure Australia consider the Major Cities Unit to be adequately staffed and funded to develop a comprehensive plan for the infrastructure needs of our major cities?
6. Has the Department committed to a Major Cities Program as outlined by Rudd in December 2006?
 - a. If so, what has been the cost to date of the Major Cities Program?
 - b. If not, when will the program commence?
 - c. What are the projected costs of the program to 2013-14?
7. Is Infrastructure Australia aware of any project slippages, cost overruns and project delivery issues surrounding the Major Cities Program?

Answer:

1. The Major Cities Unit has a budget allocation of \$1million per annum to 2013-2014.
2. There are four full-time staff in the unit.
3. Please refer to the AusTender website.
4. The Major Cities Unit has amongst other things:
 - a. helped in the development of the national criteria for strategic planning for the future of our capital cities, endorsed by COAG on 7 December 2009;
 - b. has supported the Infrastructure Australia Project prioritisation and policy development processes;
 - c. supports the Minister in his role as chair of the Local Government and Planning Ministers' Council;
 - d. is presently completing a national cities policy; and
 - e. has convened a research roundtable to engage input from Australia's leading urban researchers.
5. Yes.
6. The Government has made substantial investments in a number of public transport projects in 2008-09 and 2009-10 that include the Northbridge Link (the Hub), the O-Bahn, Gold Coast Rapid Transit and Regional Rail Link, together with transport studies in Perth, Brisbane and Sydney tackling urban congestion in our major cities.
7. N/A.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 19

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Linkages between the Major Cities Unit, Infrastructure Australia and COAG

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Macdonald/Nash asked:

Major Cities Unit

Link to Infrastructure Priorities

1. How has the work or recommendations of the Major Cities Unit been linked to infrastructure assessments of Infrastructure Australia and its recommendations to COAG?

Answer:

The work of the Major Cities Unit is closely linked to Infrastructure Australia. In particular, one of the seven themes for Infrastructure Australia is “Transforming Our Cities”.

Assessments of projects submitted to Infrastructure Australia, where they impact on urban areas, have included the input of the Major Cities Unit.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 20

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia
Topic: New England or Hunter Area Submissions
Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Williams asked:

1. Has Infrastructure Australia received any applications for projects in the New England area or the Hunter?
2. How many applications?
3. Did they fit the criteria?
4. Are any under consideration for funding?

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. Infrastructure Australia has received around 20 submissions relating to the New England area or the Hunter.
3. The Hunter Expressway was identified by Infrastructure Australia as a priority project ready to proceed.
4. Infrastructure Australia's priority infrastructure pipeline was published in May 2009 and is available on the department's website.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 21

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Identification of airport projects by Infrastructure Australia

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Is the Department aware of any advice from the Minister of Infrastructure Australia as to why airport infrastructure priorities were identified by Infrastructure Australia?

Answer:

Airport projects (ie specifically involving infrastructure on the airport itself) were not identified as either “priority projects” or “pipeline projects with real potential” in Infrastructure Australia’s May 2009 report, *National Infrastructure Priorities*.

Infrastructure Australia identified a potential multi-modal improvement in access to Perth Airport as a “pipeline project with real potential”. This conclusion was reached on the basis of Infrastructure Australia’s overall assessment of the project.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 22

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: National Ports Strategy

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

1. What is the current status of the National Ports Strategy?
2. What have been the costs of the strategy to date?
3. What are the projected costs of the strategy to 2013-14?

Answer:

1. It is being developed, by Infrastructure Australia and the National Transport Commission.
2. Costs have been met from within existing resources.
3. Projected costs beyond 2009-10 have not been estimated.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 23

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Budget Funded Projects

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

1. I refer to a number of transport infrastructure proposals to be funded by the Government in this budget. I notice that almost all of them, with the exemption of the O-Bahn track extension in the south of Adelaide, are projects recommended by Infrastructure Australia to proceed or as projects with 'real potential'. Is this correct?
2. These projects, covering a number of metropolitan rail, roads and ports projects, are flagged by Infrastructure Australia as priority projects or priority pipeline projects with 'real potential'. I refer to Table 2 in the Infrastructure Australia National Infrastructure Priorities dated May 2009 on page 11. These projects are expensive and involve the expenditure of the Commonwealth taxpayers' money of nearly \$8.5 billion and State taxpayers' money of over \$600 million. Given that these projects are so dependent on the taxpayer, when will Infrastructure Australia release its modelling and analysis so the people of Australia can see for themselves why these projects have been selected and not others?
3. Can you please explain why "commercial-in-confidence" as cited by the Minister as the reason for not releasing this data is an acceptable answer to the taxpayer?
4. Why cannot the Government release this data, when if a private company was to embark on a large-scale infrastructure project it would most certainly release its justification to its share-holders. Why is the taxpayer different?
5. The Government has also claimed that a purpose of Infrastructure Australia was to provide a transparent and open process of project selection. How can the Government make this claim if the Government will not release the data?
6. Has the Minister been shown the modelling and analysis conducted by Infrastructure Australia?

Answer:

1. The projects supported by Infrastructure Australia are listed at pages 10 and 11 of the *National Infrastructure Priorities* report May 2009.
2. Infrastructure Australia has published detailed guidelines and information about its assessment criteria and methodology. In its *National Infrastructure Priorities* report (May 2009), Infrastructure Australia outlined the criteria used to assess recommended projects, including that all recommended projects had an economic benefit-cost ratios very significantly above 1:1.
3. To provide the highest quality of material on sensitive projects, proponents were assured of confidentiality.
4. To provide the highest quality of material on sensitive projects, proponents were assured of confidentiality.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

5. To provide the highest quality of material on sensitive projects, proponents were assured of confidentiality.
6. The Government was provided with advice on the analysis undertaken by Infrastructure Australia against the Building Australia Fund evaluation criteria.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 24

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Regional Rail Express – Assessment Analysis

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

1. I refer to the answer the Minister provided to a Question on Notice, IA 26, asked during last May's Budget Estimates. The answer stated that, in regard to the recommendation by Infrastructure Australia to proceed with the rail link from West Weribee to Sunshine that: *The submission from the Victorian Government was independently assessed and recommended by the Infrastructure Coordinator.* This is all most reassuring, that Infrastructure Australia conducted its own independent assessment of the Victorian submission, in coming to a decision to recommend the expenditure of \$3.2 billion of the taxpayers' money. I also note that in Question IA 31, when asked if the Minister will release the costings of this project that the Victoria Government has published its submission. So, I again ask the question. When will Infrastructure Australia release its analysis regarding the so-called Regional Express rail project?
2. Is this to be the answer by the Minister regarding transparency and openness – that the submission by the Victorian Government is on the internet? What about the analysis conducted by Infrastructure Australia?
3. Will Infrastructure Australia release its analysis so the Australia taxpayer can understand why over \$3 billion of its money is being spent on this project and not on another?

Answer:

1. See IA 23.
2. See answer to question 1.
3. See answer to question 1.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 25

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Infrastructure Australia Assessment Methodology

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

1. The projects assessed and recommended by Infrastructure Australia are expensive and involve the expenditure of the Commonwealth taxpayers' money potentially in the tens of billions. Given that these projects are so dependent on the taxpayer, when will Infrastructure Australia release its modelling and analysis so the people of Australia can see for themselves why these projects have been selected and not others?
2. The Government has also claimed that a purpose of Infrastructure Australia was to provide a transparent and open process of project selection. How can the Government make this claim if the Government will not release the data?
3. Is Infrastructure Australia aware of any industry concerns about the process by which Infrastructure Australia selected its recommended infrastructure priorities?
4. What is the nature of these concerns?
5. Has Infrastructure Australia received any industry advice or comment regarding the transparency of its decision making processes and infrastructure recommendations?
6. Can you please explain why "commercial-in-confidence" as cited by the Minister as the reason for not releasing this data is an acceptable answer to the taxpayer?
7. Why cannot the Government release this data, when if a private company was to embark on a large-scale infrastructure project it would most certainly release its justification to its share-holders. Why is the taxpayer different?

Answer:

1. See IA 23.
2. See IA 23.
3. No.
4. Not applicable.
5. Infrastructure Australia is aware of commentary regarding the transparency of its infrastructure prioritisation process.
6. See IA 23.
7. See IA 23.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 26

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

What advice did Infrastructure Australia provide to the Prime Minister's department on infrastructure priorities?

Answer:

As a member of the Infrastructure Australia Council, the Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet or his delegate received briefings on infrastructure priorities.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 27

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Request for Submissions and Assessment Methodology

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

1. Can you produce the submissions/plans provided by the states to Infrastructure Australia?
2. How did you assess these plans?

Answer:

1. To provide the highest quality of material on sensitive projects, proponents were assured of confidentiality.
2. Infrastructure Australia has published its assessment methodology (see IA 23).

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 28

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Modelling and Analysis

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Has the Minister been shown the modelling and analysis conducted by Infrastructure Australia?

Answer:

Refer to IA 23

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 29

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Infrastructure Australia's Budget Spent on Modelling Economic Benefits

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

What percentage of the budget allocation was spent on modelling the economic benefits of infrastructure proposals?

Answer:

An appropriate level of resources was allocated to this task.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 30

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Cost Benefit Analysis

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

1. What cost-benefit analysis is Infrastructure Australia conducting to assess the infrastructure priorities of Australia?
2. What cost-benefit analysis is Infrastructure Australia conducting to assess the strategic priorities of infrastructure needs in Australia?
3. What cost-benefit analysis is Infrastructure Australia conducting to assess the deliverability of infrastructure needs in Australia?

Answer:

1. Infrastructure Australia will assess the economic costs and benefits of all projects submitted to it using its Reform and Investment Framework, as published on the Infrastructure Australia website. This process uses, as a key element of analysis, comprehensive economic cost benefit analysis.
2. Refer Q1.
3. Refer Q1.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 31

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Status of Pipeline Projects

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Can Infrastructure Australia detail the status of infrastructure projects identified as priorities in its report to COAG?

Answer:

Projects identified in the *National Infrastructure Priorities* report are being progressed in the context of the seven themes for action.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 32

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Pipeline Projects

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Can Infrastructure Australia provide a list and estimated cost of all of the projects in the pipeline?

Answer:

The *National Infrastructure Priorities* report is available on the Infrastructure Australia's website.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 33

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Infrastructure Plans

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

1. Does Infrastructure Australia consider that the Commonwealth and state governments have given adequate consideration to developing and implementing infrastructure plans?
2. If so, how did Infrastructure Australia arrive at this conclusion?

Answer:

Infrastructure Australia's framework requires projects to be assessed in the context of states' overall, regional and sector-specific plans, where they exist.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 34

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Budget allocations for infrastructure projects and role of Infrastructure Australia

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

1. Has Infrastructure Australia received any advice from the Department regarding future Commonwealth funding for future infrastructure projects?
2. If so, then what are the projected budget outlays to 2013-14?
3. If not, then what is the future role of Infrastructure Australia? What is its ongoing purpose in the absence of government funding?
4. How many projects have been considered to date by Infrastructure Australia as part of the next phase of projects?

Answer:

1. Infrastructure Australia has been provided with a copy of the 2009-10 Budget, including Budget Related Paper No.1.13 – the Portfolio Budget Statement for the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government portfolio.
2. The projected budget outlays are set out in the Budget Papers.
3. Infrastructure Australia's functions are spelt out in Section 5 of the *Infrastructure Australia Act 2008*. They include providing advice to Governments, industry and others on a wide range of infrastructure issues. Infrastructure Australia will continue to discharge its functions under the Act.
4. Infrastructure Australia is presently receiving and reviewing proposals from governments, industry and others. These proposals include longer term 'top down' regulatory and planning reforms.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 35

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Economic, social and environmental assessment of projects by Infrastructure Australia

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

1. How has Infrastructure Australia assessed the economic sustainability of infrastructure projects?
2. How has Infrastructure Australia assessed the environmental and social sustainability of infrastructure projects?

Answer:

1& 2. Infrastructure Australia's assessment methodology is available on the website.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 36

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: National Ports Strategy

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

1. I refer to the Coastal Shipping Inquiry conducted by the Infrastructure Committee and Infrastructure Australia's recent National Infrastructure Priorities Report which both discuss the development of a National Ports Strategy. What is the current status of the development of the National Ports Strategy?
2. When will it be finalised and made public?
3. Which agencies will be involved in the creation of the National Ports Strategy?
4. What consultation is being undertaken in the formulation of this plan?

Answer:

1. It is being developed by Infrastructure Australia and the National Transport Commission.
2. It is intended that a draft strategy will be provided to the Council of Australian Governments in 2010.
3. Infrastructure Australia and the National Transport Commission have carriage of developing the strategy. Other agencies involved, through provision of advice and inputs, include the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Australian Customs and Border Protection Services, Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, State and local governments.
4. The Infrastructure Coordinator has written to relevant stakeholders outlining the process for developing the strategy.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: IA 37

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Funding for projects listed in Infrastructure Australia's May 2009 report, *National Infrastructure Priorities*

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

1. Is there any update on when the remaining projects listed in Infrastructure Australia's National Infrastructure Priorities Report (released May 2009) will be funded?
2. In which financial year?
3. What percentage of the total project cost will be funded?

Answer:

1. Infrastructure Australia is building a long term pipeline of projects that may be funded by governments or the private sector or both. That pipeline is designed for a one, two or three decade approach.
2. N/A.
3. N/A.