

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.: ONA 01

Division/Agency: Office of Northern Australia
Topic: East Kimberley Development Package Projects
Hansard Page: 109 (20/10/09)

Senator Macdonald asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—I assume that is written somewhere. If not, can you quickly give me the details of those 27 projects?

Ms Foster—All of those projects were announced and listed on 3 July. There was an announcement which—

Senator IAN MACDONALD—3 July this year?

Ms Foster—That is right.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Since the last estimates. Could you perhaps just—

Mr Mrdak—We would be happy to give you a list of those.

Answer:

A list of the East Kimberley Development Package projects is available on the department's website.

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Question No.: ONA 02

Division/Agency: Office of Northern Australia

Topic: Cost analysis or assessment of infrastructure requirements

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Have the Department or its portfolio agencies conducted any cost analysis or assessment of the infrastructure required to support:

- (a) the infrastructure needs of Northern Australia?
- (b) airline safety enhancements?
- (c) the efficiency of Australia's airports?
- (d) transport security enhancements?
- (e) safety enhancements?

Answer:

- (a) In August 2008, Infrastructure Australia issued a call for public submissions, requesting input on the infrastructure challenges facing Australia across the transport, energy, water and communications sectors. Over 600 submissions were received including infrastructure initiatives for Northern Australia. Infrastructure Australia published its recommendations in its *National Infrastructure Priorities* report in May 2009. Infrastructure Australia's assessment methodology includes cost benefit analysis.

The Department also conducted a detailed assessment, under the leadership of Parliamentary Secretary Gary Gray AO MP, with the Western Australian Government, of the infrastructure needs of the East Kimberley over December 2008 to March 2009. This assessment was the basis for the \$195 million East Kimberley Development Package.

- (b) The Government has put in place a robust governance system for airline safety that ensures that Australia has a world class safety system. As required, airline safety enhancements and related infrastructure are assessed by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, which ensures they meet regulatory requirements.
- (c) As part of its regulatory and compliance role, the Department undertakes assessments of airport Master Plans for the Leased Federal Airports. These Master Plans provide for infrastructure upgrades to meet future capacity and needs of users. Necessary facilities to ensure efficiency of aircraft and movements are an element of this. A Master Plan must 'establish the strategic direction for efficient and economic development' and the Minister must have regard to the extent that the Plan meets this purpose.
- (d) All changes to transport security regulations are subject to Government requirements for regulation and standard setting. This requires proposals to be supported by cost benefit analysis where applicable.
- (e) It is not clear what safety enhancements the question is referring to. However, the Australian Government has in place arrangements that ensure that safety enhancements and related infrastructure are assessed by portfolio agencies across the various transport modes.