

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 56

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Outback Highway Upgrade

Proof Hansard Page/s: 11 (18/11/2013)

Senator Ruston asked:

Senator RUSTON: So the previous government has not made any instruction in relation to that highway. Do we have the figures on what has actually been spent so far in terms of the Outback Highway upgrade?

Mr Deegan: The department would be in a better position to respond to that.

Mr Mrdak: Senator, we can get you that figure—and, as you would be aware, the government has also made, as part of its investment strategy, a significant commitment of \$33 million to the future funding for the Outback Highway.

Answer:

To date, a total of \$17.9 million has been paid by the Australian Government (between 2006 and 2013) to upgrade sections of the Outback Highway in Western Australia, Queensland and Northern Territory.

- \$10 million was provided to upgrade the Outback Highway under the former Strategic Regional Programme between 2005-06 and 2011-12. Funding contributions covered the length of the road and matching recipient contributions were a condition of Australian Government funding.
- \$7.9 million was provided to upgrade the Plenty Highway (part of the Outback Highway in the Northern Territory) as part of the Community, Beef and Mining Roads improvement program in the Nation Building Program between 2008-09 and 2010-11.

Funding was paid as follows :

Financial Year	Total AG funding
2005-06	\$963,178
2006-07	\$4,176,822
2007-08	\$2,629,980
2008-09	\$536,810
2009-10	\$7,448,598
2010-11	\$1,581,528
2011-12	\$583,732
Total	\$17,920,648

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Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 57

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Hann Highway

Proof Hansard Page/s: 11 (18/11/2013)

Senator Ruston asked:

Senator RUSTON: Thank you. Just finally, the Hann Highway: was there any assessment done of that particular highway in relation to its condition, the feasibility for its remediation et cetera?

Mr Mrdak: Not by the department of infrastructure; I will take that on notice to see whether there is any assessment work undertaken by the former department of regional Australia—but certainly not by the infrastructure department, that I am aware of.

Senator RUSTON: So basically there is no scope or nature of works that would be in place to determine whether that particular highway—

Mr Mrdak: There may be advice from the Queensland government, but I take that on notice.

Answer:

The responsibility for assessing the condition of highways and identifying any required upgrade or maintenance works lies with the state and/or local governments.

The Etheridge Shire Council applied for funding in the Regional Development Australia Fund Round 4 application process through the former Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport (DRALGAS). The application was unsuccessful.

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Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 58

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Regional Development Australia Fund

Proof Hansard Page/s: 15 (18/11/2013)

Senator Edwards asked:

Senator EDWARDS: Can you give me an idea, with rounds 1 and 2, of how long it was between the opening of those initiatives and the closing of those rounds—what was the period of time?

Mr Mrdak: I will just see if we can help you in relation to that.

Senator EDWARDS: While you are looking at that, I will continue. You opened rounds 3, 4, 5 and 5B in October last year—is that right, or was it just rounds 3 and 4?

Mr Jaggars: Senator, are you particularly after details on round 5?

Senator EDWARDS: I am interested in the timing between rounds 1 and 2. How long was it between when they were opened by the previous government, and they were closed?

Mr Jaggars: I understand it was around six to eight weeks, but I can provide the details of each of those rounds to you.

CHAIR: Take that on notice.

Answer:

The open and close dates for the first five rounds for the Regional Development Australia Fund are provided in the table below. Rounds Two, Three and Four of the Regional Development Australia Fund required an Expression of Interest to be submitted before the applicant could proceed to the full application stage.

Round	Open date	Expression of Interest close date	Close date
Round One	3 March 2011	N/A	13 May 2011
Round Two	3 November 2011	1 December 2011	15 February 2012
Round Three	26 October 2012	6 December 2012	27 March 2013
Round Four	26 October 2012	6 December 2012	11 April 2013
Round Five	21 June 2013	N/A	22 July 2013

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Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 59

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Regional Development Australia Fund – Greater Western Sydney Applications

Proof Hansard Page/s: 17 (18/11/2013)

Senator Edwards asked:

Senator EDWARDS: Across the projects that have been contracted so far, can you tell me what percentage of the applications out of Greater Western Sydney have been contracted through rounds 3 and 4?

Mr Jagers: I will need to take that on notice, in terms of contracts and projects in Greater Western Sydney.

Answer:

No Greater Western Sydney applications were successful under Regional Development Australia Fund Round Three.

Seventeen of the Expressions of Interest for projects located in Greater Western Sydney proceeded to full application in Round Four of the Regional Development Australia Fund. Of these 18% (three) were selected for funding. Two of the successful projects in Greater Western Sydney have been contracted. One project remains uncontracted.

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Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 60

Program 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Infrastructure Projects in the Northern Territory

Proof Hansard Page/s: 18-19 (18/11/2013)

Senator Peris asked:

Senator PERIS: Thank you, Chair. My question is: what major infrastructure projects in the Northern Territory worth more than a million dollars has the federal government committed to?

Mr Pittar: The government has committed to the upgrade of the Tiger Brennan Drive project in the Northern Territory.

Senator PERIS: Is there a figure on that?

Mr Pittar: There is.

Mr Jagers: It is a \$70 million commitment.

Mr Pittar: With an overall project cost of \$103 million.

Mr Jagers: There are also existing projects that the government has indicated it will continue with. They are the Katherine bypass, which is a \$10 million commitment and a national highway strengthening and widening project, which is \$10.9 million this financial year. These figures are from 2013-14 onwards. There are network infrastructure road safety initiatives, including fatigue management. That has \$6.19 million from 2013-14 onwards. There is the new high-level bridge over the King River, which has \$6 million from this year onwards. There is an overtaking lanes project on the Stuart Highway between Katherine and Darwin, and there is \$1.44 million allocated to that project. There is a rail overpass south of Alice Springs with \$13 million from this financial year onwards. There is also the Regional Roads Productivity Package, to the value of \$90 million; an upgraded Central Arnhem road of \$7.66 million; and an upgrade of the Plenty Highway—that is a small upgrade, and a small amount of money at under \$100 million. There is also a \$2 million project to upgrade the Karinga Creek northern approach to Palmer River. And of course the Outback Highway commitment that the government has made runs through a number of jurisdictions, and I think there is \$33 million committed to that project.

Senator PERIS: Can I ask for a copy of those that you have just stated?

Ms O'Connell: Yes, we can provide you with that, on notice.

Senator PERIS: As to the allocation over the next six years—the \$90 million—is that all included in that breakdown?

Mr Jagers: I am sorry; I just missed that question.

Senator PERIS: As to the productivity package that you were talking about, is that all broken down over the forthcoming years?

Mr Jagers: I might ask Mr Pittar to comment on that.

Mr Pittar: That Regional Roads Productivity Package is broken down in the form of \$30 million each year from 2014-15 to 2016-17—so: \$30 million in 2014-15, \$30 million in 2015-16 and \$30 million in 2016-17.

Ms O'Connell: When we provide you with this, we will provide you with the breakdown in terms of financial years for those projects.

Answer:

Details of Australian Government's Infrastructure Investment funding to Northern Territory projects from 2013-14 is as shown in the table below:

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Project	AG total funding \$m	AG funding contribution 2013-14 to 2018-19 \$m
Overtaking Opportunities - Stuart Highway between Katherine and Darwin	19.00	1.44
National Highways Strengthening and Widening	63.00	10.91
Network Infrastructure Road Safety Initiatives Including Fatigue Management	28.00	6.19
Stuart and Victoria Highways Flood Immunity Works	21.00	8.08
Katherine Heavy Vehicle Bypass	10.00	10.00
Rail Overpass South of Alice Springs	13.00	13.00
Upgrade of the Plenty Highway	8.00	0.08
Upgrade of the Central Arnhem Road	40.00	7.66
Upgrade of the Maryvale Road and Hughes Stock Route	2.00	0.02
Tiger Brennan Drive - Darwin CBD to Berrima Road duplication	70.00	70.00
Regional Roads Productivity Package	90.00	90.00
National Network Maintenance	On-going	102.93

The allocation of the \$33 million commitment to the Outback Way will be determined in discussions between the Australian, NT, WA and Queensland governments at a later date.

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Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 61

Program: Regional Development Australia Fund

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Regional Development Australia Fund Contracts

Proof Hansard Page/s: 23 (18/11/2013)

Senator McLucas asked:

Mr Mrdak: All uncontracted projects from rounds 2, 3, 4 and 5 have had advice provided to government and it is now considering the matter.

Senator McLUCAS: I am not asking about the nature of the advice. These projects have been through the Regional Development Australia committees. They have been approved. They have been approved by your department, by and large, in that process. I am trying to understand the process you are going through with the review.

Mr Mrdak: Clearly, the government is working its way through a series of programs at the moment in relation to the fiscal impacts of those programs and ascertaining as to whether, given its fiscal targets, whether those programs can be met and delivered. That process obviously takes some time to work through.

Senator McLUCAS: When will we know the result of those deliberations?

Mr Mrdak: That is a matter for government. I cannot give you a time frame at this stage.

Senator McLUCAS: Minister, I wonder if you could ask the minister's office if we could get an understanding of when decisions will be made about whether these uncontracted projects will proceed?

Mr Mrdak: We can certainly take that on notice.

Senator McLUCAS: Could we get that information today?

Mr Mrdak: The government is in the middle of a series of budget processes. I am not sure we can give you an immediate answer to that, but we will do that as quickly as we can.

Senator McLUCAS: I do not want to know the outcome; I just want to know the time frame.

Mr Mrdak: I understand.

Senator Sinodinos: Yes, but it is tied up in these broader processes.

Senator McLUCAS: Minister, is there a way we can find out when we will know what is going to—

Senator Sinodinos: Yes, we will follow that up and get you an answer about when we can provide that information.

Senator STERLE: It is like a scene from *Fawlty Towers*: 'Eventually'.

Senator Sinodinos: To be fair, there is a broader process that is going on that the officer has alluded to.

Senator McLUCAS: I understand.

Senator Sinodinos: We can give you a time line.

Answer:

On Wednesday 4 December 2013, the Hon Warren Truss, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, announced that uncontracted projects from Rounds Two, Three and Four of the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) will be funded from the Coalition Government's new Community Development Grants programme. Projects announced under Rounds Five and Five b of the RDAF will not be funded as these were Labor election commitments.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 62

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: National Stronger Regions Fund

Proof Hansard Page/s: 23 (18/11/2013)

Senator McLucas asked:

Senator McLUCAS: That would be great. I now want to move to the difference between the Regional Development Australia Fund under the former government and the National Stronger Regions Fund. First of all, can I assume that any uncontracted or unspent money in the funds that were allocated under RDAF will move to the National Stronger Regions Fund?

Mr Mrdak: Those are decisions yet to be taken. The government has made an election commitment to introduce the National Stronger Regions Fund from 2015-16, funded at \$200 million per annum. The decisions on the details of that program and the arrangements on how it is to operate are yet to be taken.

Senator McLUCAS: I understand that the National Stronger Regions Fund is to target areas with poor socioeconomic indicators and high unemployment. Is that your understanding?

Mr Mrdak: I will get you the full details. I think the Deputy Prime Minister has made some comments in relation to where the funds will be targeted across the country. We can get you some details of that, but essentially he has made a commitment to look to target areas which are suffering poorer socioeconomic outcomes and facing greater difficulties in economic development.

Answer:

The Deputy Prime Minister has stated that the details of the National Stronger Regions Fund will be outlined in 2014. The National Stronger Regions Fund will invest \$200 million per year for five years from 2015-16 in local capital works projects to improve local communities.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 63

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Torres Strait Island Regional Council Funding Agreement

Proof Hansard Page/s: 24 (18/11/2013)

Senator McLucas asked:

Senator McLUCAS: Had the department provided the TSIRC a draft contract at September of this year?

Ms Lindsay: Yes, we had.

Senator McLUCAS: Do you know the date on which that was provided?

Ms Lindsay: I do not have that with me but we can take it on notice.

Answer:

The Department provided a comprehensive draft funding agreement to Torres Strait Island Regional Council on 6 September 2013, based on several months of negotiation.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 64

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Torres Strait Island Regional Council Funding Agreement

Proof Hansard Page/s: 24 (18/11/2013)

Senator McLucas asked:

Senator McLUCAS: Was the department satisfied that the scope of works was finalised, that the partners had been agreed, that the document provided to the TSIRC was satisfactory to the department at that point?

Mr Jagers: I understand we were getting very close to when an agreement could be executed but it had not been at that stage.

Senator McLUCAS: So we were very close. We just basically needed a signature.

Mr Jagers: I believe that is the case.

Senator McLUCAS: We needed a signature and that was about it?

Mr Jagers: I need to check that on notice but I believe it was getting close to finalisation

Answer:

The Department provided a comprehensive draft funding agreement to Torres Strait Island Regional Council on 6 September 2013, based on several months of negotiation.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 65

Program: Regional Development Australia Fund

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: National Stronger Regions Fund

Proof Hansard Page/s: 26 (18/11/2013)

Senator McLucas asked:

Senator McLUCAS: Some funds may flow outside the National Stronger Regions Fund?

Mr Mrdak: That is a matter for consideration by the government as to whether that is the case. But what I am indicating to you is that if projects are not funded through the current review of the uncontracted projects, then they may be reconsidered through the National Stronger Regions Program.

Senator McLUCAS: So maybe Mr Truss's spokesperson has been misquoted here?

Mr Mrdak: I have not seen the quote, but I am happy to take that on notice.

Senator McLUCAS: It says: 'Mr Truss's spokesperson said it will only be considered in the context of the new National Stronger Regions fund, whenever that may be finalised'.

Mr Mrdak: Again, I will take that on notice, Senator. I am not familiar with the comments. I will check that.

Answer:

On Wednesday 4 December 2013, the Hon Warren Truss, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, announced that uncontracted projects from Rounds Two, Three and Four of the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) will be funded from the Coalition Government's new Community Development Grants programme. Projects announced under Rounds Five and Five b of the RDAF will not be funded as these were Labor election commitments.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 66

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Climate Change Mitigation Works in the Torres Strait

Proof Hansard Page/s: 26 (18/11/2013)

Senator McLucas asked:

Senator Sinodinos: Which project is this?

Senator McLUCAS: I call it climate change mitigation works in the Torres Strait. Everyone in the Torres Strait calls it 'sea walls'. It is to provide protection against inundation of sea water, mainly during the February tides. My question goes then to: there has been a view expressed that someone was confident that construction would start before Christmas 2013. Do you think there is any potential for that to be achieved?

Mr Mrdak: Again, Senator, I would have to take on notice the timing of government decisions. Now that funding commitments have been reached with other levels of government the government is well aware of the desire to move quickly. We do understand the reality that some of that seawall work has a very limited time opportunity to be undertaken.

Answer:

Significant design and planning work has been undertaken on the Torres Strait Sea Wall project. Construction has not yet commenced and will not commence before Christmas 2013.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 67

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Darlington Project / River Torrens Project

Proof Hansard Page/s: 28 (18/11/2013)

Senator Gallacher asked:

Senator GALLACHER: I will rephrase it. My question to the minister after hearing Infrastructure Australia's response is that, with the River Torrens project, \$20 million spent already, houses have been bought, it is also surveyed and ready to go. It looks as though it is happening. The priority to go to Darlington in the absence of an Infrastructure Australia assessment, is that purely a political decision? What is the rationale for going to Darlington over a project already scoped and commenced?

Ms Mrdak: Perhaps I will assist initially. We are happy to take on notice advice in more detail from the minister. The government has made clear its view that the Darlington project has more significant benefit in terms of traffic flow and commuter access to the north-south corridor at this time than the Torrens to Torrens project.

Answer:

The South Road upgrade at Darlington is expected to reduce traffic congestion and travel times, improve travel time reliability and reduce the frequency of crashes. In particular, the project will relieve congestion for commuter traffic from the southern suburbs of Adelaide. The Australian Government has asked the South Australian Government to develop a business case for the Darlington project.

The Australian Government has also asked the South Australian Government to continue planning the Torrens Road to River Torrens project using \$20 million in funding already provided.

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Question no.: 68

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Great Northern Highway Project

Proof Hansard Page/s: 36 (18/11/2013)

Acting Chair (Sterle) asked:

ACTING CHAIR: Thanks, Senator Eggleston. Mr Mrdak, could you or any of your officers inform the committee when was the scheduled commencement date of construction on the Great Northern Highway project at the time of the budget—and its completion date, too, if you have that there.

Mr Jagers: I believe we were still in negotiations and discussions with the Western Australian government about the start and completion dates for the project. I do not have a proposed construction commencement date with me.

ACTING CHAIR: That is no worries, Mr Jagers: you did not have a commencement and completion date at the time of the budget, and you certainly do not have one now, because we do not even know if it is going to happen—because it is in-continuation. I think you said that, Mr Mrdak?

Mr Jagers: Sorry, Senator: there are actually a range of different elements to this project, and they will each have different start and finish dates.

ACTING CHAIR: Can you arm us with any?

Mr Jagers: We have not finalised discussions with Western Australia.

Mr Mrdak: We can certainly take it on notice and give you the program for the Great Northern as it currently stands, and also what were the contemplated previous dates, and come back to you.

Answer:

There are currently two projects underway on the Great Northern Highway. They are the Port Hedland Improvements Project (Stage 2) which commenced construction in November 2012 and is scheduled for completion in June 2014, and the Bindi Bindi to Lyons section between Muchea to Wubin which commenced in October 2013 and is scheduled for completion at the end of 2014.

The Australian Government is currently working to finalise the Infrastructure Investment Programme in Western Australia. The Government will announce the projects to be funded under the programme, including the timing of any further projects on the Great Northern Highway, once the programme is finalised.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 69

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: NT Regional Roads Productivity Package

Proof Hansard Page/s: 43 (18/11/2013)

Senator Peris asked:

Mr Pittar: The works involved with the Roper Highway involve construction of bridges in the Roper and Wilton rivers area. The Port Keats Road works is part of that and that is to improve wet season access to a number of communities. The Central Arnhem Road that you mentioned involves the bridge over the Rocky Bottom Creek, which I think you also mentioned. The Buntine Highway work involves pavement strengthening, widening and sealing of targeted sections. There is work on the Arnhem Link Road proposed. Again, that is improving it to a better gravel standard and work also on the Santa Teresa road, which is around pavement strengthening, widening of targeted sections.

Ms O'Connell: That is the package of those six roads that you read out.

Senator PERIS: Okay. When you pass me the information with regard to that, you will also be able to give me the funding profile and the breakdown for each of those?

Ms O'Connell: I am not sure we can give the breakdown of each of those six. We can give a breakdown of the overall funding profile for the package, but we may not be in a position to do so for each of those six individualised items. We will see what we can provide if we do have a profile for any one or more of them.

Answer:

The funding allocations to the projects within the Regional Roads Productivity Package are as follows:

Project Name	AG (\$m)	NT (\$m)	Total (\$m)
Buntine Highway	9	1	10
Port Keats Road	18	2	20
Santa Teresa Road	8	2	10
Arnhem Link Road	9	2	11
Central Arnhem Road	14	1	15
Roper Highway	32	8	40
TOTAL	90	16	106

The funding profile for the overall \$90 million Australian Government commitment is \$30 million in 2014-15, \$30 million in 2015-16 and \$30 million in 2016-17. The funding profiles for the individual projects within the Package are yet to be determined.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 70

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: Local Government and Territories

Topic: RDAF Round Five Applications in the Northern Territory

Proof Hansard Page/s: 101 (18/11/2013)

Senator Peris asked:

Senator PERIS: Could you please confirm which RDAF round-5 applications in the Northern Territory have been successful in obtaining funding to continue proposed projects of rural and regional local government and community organisations for the construction or upgrade of local infrastructure.

Mr Mrdak: Sorry, we dealt with RDAF projects this morning. Can I ask for those to be put on notice. I do not have the officers who deal with the projects with me any longer. We can deal with the Regional Development Australia network in this segment but not the projects under RDAF 5. We dealt with some of those this morning.

Senator PERIS: I will put that one on notice.

Mr Mrdak: I am happy to take those on notice.

Answer:

No applications for Round Five of the Regional Development Australia Fund have been funded, including projects in the Northern Territory.

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Question no.: 71

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Liveable Cities Program

Proof Hansard Page/s: 108 (18/11/2013)

Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM: The final one, which is actually a budget line item, is the Liveable Cities Program. Is that going to lapse or get the chop, or will that be maintained by the current government?

Mr Mrdak: I think the Liveable Cities Program is in its final year. Government is yet to take any decisions in relation to any future extension of that program.

Senator LUDLAM: Minister, if I could add that one to your list.

Answer:

The Liveable Cities Program is in its final year, with funding allocated to contracted projects until the end of 2013-14.

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Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 72

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Northern Territory Roads to Recovery Package

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Macdonald asked:

Question on Notice 60 from Budget Estimates in May 2013 asked the Department to clarify whether advice had been expressly provided to the Northern Territory Government to the effect that the Regional Roads Productivity Package would not be funded prior to 2016-17.

In answer to Question on Notice 60 from Budget Estimates in May the Department indicated that no such advice had been provided to the Government of the Northern Territory.

The answer also seems at odds with answers provided during Budget Estimates hearings (Hansard pp 16-21 and 80-81 29/05/2013) to the effect that the funding had been "profiled" to 2016-17.

1. What is the current status of the Northern Territory Regional Roads to Recovery program?
2. Can you confirm that the previous Government delayed funding for the Northern Territory Regional Roads to Recovery package until 2016-17?
3. Did the Department, under instruction from the previous Government, knowing that it had in fact delayed this funding, wilfully mislead this committee by providing an answer to a question on notice that denies this fact?

Answer:

1. Funding for the Regional Roads Productivity Package is provided in the Infrastructure Investment Programme for the Northern Territory. The NT Government has submitted a Project Proposal Report seeking release of a portion of the available funding for the planning phase, which is currently being assessed.
2. Funding was re-profiled in July 2013 following discussions with the NT Government on its cash-flow requirements for the project. The current profile is as follows:

2014-15 (\$m)	2015-16 \$m	2016-17 (\$m)	Total (\$m)
30	30	30	90

3. No.

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Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 73

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Regional Development Grants

Proof Hansard Page/s: (18/11/2013)

Senator MacDonald asked:

A number of Northern Local Government Authorities, and the TEC-NQ vocational training facility, have contact the office of Senator Ian Macdonald to enquire as to the status of their RDAF funding grants.

The Minister's office has indicated that RDAF funding grants awarded under the previous government, where contracts have been signed, will be honoured.

1. By what criteria will previous funding grants be re-assessed under the 'National Stronger Futures Fund' package?
2. Will Local Government Authorities and other entities who had successfully bid for RDAF funding (Rounds three, four and five) be required to re-apply/re-submit their applications through a revised 'National Stronger Futures Fund' process

Answer:

On Wednesday 4 December 2013, the Hon Warren Truss, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, announced that uncontracted projects from Rounds Two, Three and Four of the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) will be funded from the Coalition Government's new Community Development Grants programme.

Projects announced under Rounds Five and Five b of the RDAF will not be funded as these were Labor election commitments.

The National Stronger Regions Fund will invest \$200 million per year for five years from 2015-16. The details of the new programme will be outlined in 2014.

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Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 74

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to the Coalition's election promise for \$6.7 billion in funding to fix Bruce Highway:

- a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department?
If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.
- b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.
- c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$6.7 billion and include location and allocated funding amounts.
- d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.
- e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?

Answer:

- a. The planning of projects is the responsibility of the states and territories. The Australian and Queensland governments have been jointly funding the upgrade of the Bruce Highway and detailed planning for the route is ongoing. The Queensland Government's *Bruce Highway Action Plan – 'Out of the Crisis'* is available at the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Road's Website < <http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/About-us/Corporate-information/Publications/Bruce-Highway-Action-Plan.aspx>>.
- b. The Department liaises with the Minister's Office on a regular basis and any advice provided is advice to the Government.
- c. For a detailed list of the projects to be funded out of the \$6.7 billion Bruce Highway package, please see the '*The Coalition's Policy to Fix the Bruce Highway*' available on the Liberal Party's Website <http://www.liberal.org.au/fixing-bruce-highway>
- d. The Queensland Government commissioned the *Bruce Highway Action Plan – 'Out of the Crisis'*. This is available at the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Road's Website < <http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/About-us/Corporate-information/Publications/Bruce-Highway-Action-Plan.aspx>>. The Queensland Government will be required to submit detailed project proposal reports on each project prior to funding being formally provided to the project
- e. Yes.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 75

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project?

If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.

- a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements?
If not, why not?
- b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project?
If so, please provide details.

Answer:

Yes, an 80:20 funding arrangement between the Australian and Queensland governments will apply to Bruce Highway projects.

- a. Yes
- b. No

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 76

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Westconnex

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to the Coalition's election promise for \$1.5 billion to ensure Westconnex project gets underway:

- a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department?
If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.
- b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.
- c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$1.5 billion and include location and allocated funding amounts.
- d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyse the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.
- e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?

Answer:

- a. The planning of projects is the responsibility of the states and territories. The Australian and New South Wales governments jointly contributed funding to the Business Case for the WestConnex project. The WestConnex Business Case Executive Summary was publically released on 19 September 2013 and is available here: < <http://www.westconnex.com.au/internal-pages/library/key-documents-maps.html>>. The New South Wales Government will not release the full Business Case on commercial in confidence grounds.
- b. The Department liaises with the Minister's Office on a regular basis and any advice provided is advice to the Government.
- c. The Australian Government has committed \$1.5 billion (nominal) to the WestConnex project, the project has three stages but funding has not been allocated to separate stages. The stages are:
 - Stage 1: M4 – Parramatta to Haberfield, estimated cost \$3.4-3.6 billion;
 - Stage 2: M5 East Airport Link – Beverly Hills to St Peters, estimated cost \$3.6-3.8 billion;
 - and
 - Stage 3: M4 South – Haberfield to St Peters, estimated cost \$4-4.1 billion.
- d. No.
- e. Yes.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 77

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Westconnex

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project?
If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.

- a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements?
If not, why not?
- b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project?
If so, please provide details

Answer:

The Australian Government has committed \$1.5 billion (nominal) and the New South Wales Government has committed \$1.8 billion (nominal) to the project. The NSW Government announced the Reference Financing Strategy as part of the 2013-14 Budget, which will allow the initial stages of WestConnex to be funded through public capital contributions. Private sector capital can then be raised against tolling revenue from Stage 1 to fund subsequent stages.

- a. The pre-election proposed project cost has not changed.
- b. No.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 78

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: M2 Link

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$405 million for the Sydney F3 to M2 Link:

- a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department?
If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.
- b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.
- c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$405 million and include location and allocated funding amounts.
- d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyse the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.
- e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?

Answer:

- a. In 2004, SKM completed the F3 to Sydney Orbital Link Study, which was reviewed in 2007 in the Review of the F3 to M7 Corridor Selection. Both documents are available on the Department's website here: < <http://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/publications/reports/index.aspx>>.
- b. The Department liaises with the Minister's Office on a regular basis and any advice provided is advice to the Government.
- c. The \$405 million (nominal) will fund the F2 to M2 Link, which follows the Pennant Hills and Northern Rail Line corridor between the F3 at Wahroonga and the M2 at West Pennant Hills.
- d. In 2004, SKM completed the F3 to Sydney Orbital Link Study, which was reviewed in 2007 in the Review of the F3 to M7 Corridor Selection. Both documents are available on the Department's website here: < <http://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/publications/reports/index.aspx>>.
- e. Yes.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 79

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: M2 Link

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project?
If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.

- a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements?
If not, why not?
- b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project?
If so, please provide details

Answer:

The Australian Government has committed \$405 million (nominal) and the New South Wales Government has committed \$410 million (nominal) to the project. Transurban will also contribute funding to the project.

- a. The pre-election proposed project cost has not changed.
- b. No.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 80

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Melbourne East West Link

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$1.5 billion to commence construction of Melbourne East West link:

- a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.
- b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.
- c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$1.5 billion and include location and allocated funding amounts.
- d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyse the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.
- e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?

Answer:

- a. The planning of projects is the responsibility of the states and territories. Planning for Stage 1 of the East West Link is a matter for the Victorian Government.
- b. The Department liaises with the Ministers Office on a regular basis and any advice provided is advice to the Australian Government.
- c. The Australian Government has committed \$1.5 billion towards Stage 1 of the East West Link between the Eastern Freeway and City Link.
- d. The Victorian Government has developed a business case for Stage 1 of the East West Link. A short form of the business case is publically available at:
<http://www.linkingmelbourne.vic.gov.au/pages/pdfs/east-west-link-stage-one--short-form-business-case.pdf>
- e. Yes.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 81

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Melbourne East West Link

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project?
If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.

- a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements?
If not, why not?
- b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project?
If so, please provide details

Answer:

Stage 1 of the East West Link will be designed, constructed and operated through a Public Private Partnership. The preferred consortium will be selected through a competitive tender process. Alternative sources of funding will not be known until the preferred consortium is selected in mid-2014.

- a. Yes.
- b. No.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 82

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Brisbane Gateway Upgrade

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$1 billion to support Brisbane Gateway upgrade:

- a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.
- b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.
- c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$1 billion and include location and allocated funding amounts.
- d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyse the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.
- e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?

Answer:

- a. The planning of projects is the responsibility of the states and territories.
- b. The Department liaises with the Minister's Office on a regular basis and any advice provided is advice to the Government.
- c. The Australian Government has committed up to \$1 billion from 2013-14 to the upgrade of the Gateway Motorway in Brisbane between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge.
- d. The Queensland Government completed a Business Case for the Gateway Motorway North project in November 2012. The Business Case is classified *Commercial-In-Confidence* and as such, cannot be released, however, Queensland maintains a project webpage from which the *Gateway Upgrade North preferred plan 2013, Nudgee to Bracken Ridge* can be accessed. The webpage is located at <<http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/G/Gateway-Motorway-North-planning-study.aspx>>.
- e. Yes.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 83

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Brisbane Gateway Upgrade

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project?
If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.

- a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements?
If not, why not?
- b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project?
If so, please provide details.

Answer:

The Queensland Government is providing a 20 per cent funding contribution to the project.

- a. Yes
- b. No

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 84

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Swan Valley Bypass

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$615 million to build Swan Valley Bypass:

- a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department?
If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.
- b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.
- c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$615 million and include location and allocated funding amounts.
- d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.
- e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?

Answer:

- a. The planning of projects is the responsibility of the states and territories. The Australian Government provided an advanced payment of \$25.3 million in 2012-13 to progress planning for the project.
- b. The Department liaises with the Minister's Office on a regular basis and any advice provided is advice to the Government.
- c. The Australian Government has committed \$615 million to the Swan Valley Bypass from 2015-16 onwards. The project will involve the construction of a new highway from the Reid Highway and Tonkin Highway intersection to Muchea.
- d. The Western Australian Government has prepared two Business Cases in 2010 and 2011 to support previous Western Australian Department of Treasury funding submissions. Copies can be requested from the Western Australian Government.
- e. Yes.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 85

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Swan Valley Bypass

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project?

If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.

a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements?

If not, why not?

b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project?

If so, please provide details.

Answer:

Yes, the Australian and Western Australian governments have committed to jointly funding the Swan Valley Bypass from 2015-16.

a. Yes.

b. No.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 86

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Perth Gateway

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$686 million to build Perth Gateway Project:

- a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department?
If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.
- b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.
- c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$608 million and include location and allocated funding amounts.
- d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.
- e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?

Answer:

- a. The planning of projects is the responsibility of the states and territories. Planning for the project took place prior to the commencement of major construction work in September 2013.
- b. The Department liaises with the Minister's Office on a regular basis and any advice provided is advice to the Government.
- c. The Australian Government funding of \$686 million is being provided for the Gateway WA project, involving upgrades to the road network around Perth Airport.
- d. In 2012, the Western Australian Government engaged Gateway Vision (a joint venture between consultants GHD and BG&E) to develop a Project Master Plan, which identified the scope and estimated cost of the Gateway WA project. A copy can be requested from the Western Australian Government.
- e. Yes.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 87

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Perth Gateway

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project?

If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.

- a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the projects(s) funding requirements?
If not, why not?
- b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project?
If so, please provide details.

Answer:

Yes, the Australian and Western Australian governments are jointly funding the Gateway WA project.

- a. Yes.
- b. No.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 88

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: North-South Road Corridor

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$500 million to upgrade Adelaide's North-South Road Corridor:

- a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department?
If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.
- b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.
- c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$500 million and include location and allocated funding amounts.
- d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyse the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.
- e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?

Answer:

- a. The planning of projects is the responsibility of the states and territories. South Australia has been undertaking planning studies for sections of South Road using funding provided by the Australian Government.
- b. The Department liaises with the Minister's Office on a regular basis and any advice provided is advice to the Government.
- c. The Australian Government funding of \$500 million will be provided for the North-South Road Corridor in Adelaide. The Government has announced that the South Road upgrade at Darlington is its highest priority project on the corridor.
- d. South Australia has been undertaking planning studies for sections of South Road. The release of documents arising from these studies is a matter for the South Australian Government.
- e. Yes.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 89

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: North-South Road Corridor

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project?
If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.

- a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements?
If not, why not?
- b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project?
If so, please provide details.

Answer:

Yes, the Australian and South Australian governments are jointly funding the North-South Road Corridor upgrade.

- a. Funding committed in the election, combined with matching funding from the South Australian Government, is expected to meet the funding requirements for the South Road upgrade at Darlington.
- b. No.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 90

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Midland Highway in Tasmania

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$400 million to upgrade Midland Highway in Tasmania:

- a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.
- b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.
- c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$400 million and include location and allocated funding amounts.
- d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyse the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.
- e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?

Answer:

- a. The planning of projects is the responsibility of the states and territories. Planning for potential projects on the Midland Highway is underway.
- b. The Department liaises with the Minister's Office on a regular basis and any advice provided is advice to the Government.
- c. The Australian Government has committed \$400 million to the Midland Highway over the 10 year period from 2014-15. The Australian Government is working with the Tasmanian Government to determine priorities and finalise the new investment programme.
- d. The projects to be funded on the Midland Highway have not yet been finalised.
- e. Yes.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 91

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Midland Highway in Tasmania

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project?
If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.

- a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements?
If not, why not?
- b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project?
If so, please provide details.

Answer:

Yes, the Australian and Tasmanian governments will fund the project.

- a. Yes.
- b. No.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 92

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Pacific Highway

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$5.6 billion to duplicate the Pacific Highway from Newcastle to QLD border:

- a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.
- b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.
- c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$5.6 billion and include location and allocated funding amounts.
- d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyse the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.
- e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?

Answer:

- a. The planning of projects is the responsibility of the states and territories. The Australian and New South Wales governments have been jointly funding the upgrade of the Pacific Highway since 1996 and detailed planning for the route is ongoing.
- b. The Department liaises with the Ministers Office on a regular basis and any advice provided is advice to the Government.
- c. The Australian Government has committed \$5.6 billion to the Pacific Highway upgrade from 2013-14 onwards. Attachment A includes the Australian Government allocations from 2013-14 rather than the total cost of the project. Attachment B is a map showing the location of Pacific Highway projects.
- d. In 2011, the NSW Government engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers to provide an economic appraisal of the Pacific Highway upgrade. A copy can be requested from the New South Wales Government. The Department has engaged an external contractor to undertake a review of the project. The report is expected to be completed in late 2013.
- e. Yes.

[92 – Attachment A – Table of Pacific Highway questions and their funding contributions.]

[92 – Attachment B – Map of the Pacific Highway upgrade.]

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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92 – Attachment A – Table of Pacific Highway questions and their funding contributions

Project	Australian Government contribution from 2013-14 onwards*
Bulahdelah Bypass	\$21.8m
Hérons Creek to Stills Road	\$9.99m
Frederickton to Eungai	\$217.1m
Sapphire to Woolgoolga	\$124.5m
Devils Pulpit	\$10.8m
Tintenbar to Ewingsdale	\$216.6m
Oxley Highway to Kundabung	\$638.3m
Kundabung to Kempsey	\$115.0m
Warrell Creek to Nambucca Heads	\$475.0m
Nambucca Heads to Urunga	\$353.3m
Woolgoolga to Ballina (planning and preconstruction)	\$127.1m
Woolgoolga to Ballina (construction)	\$3308.2m

*Does not include funding provided in previous years.

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92- Attachment B – Map of the Pacific Highway upgrade



Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 93

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Pacific Highway

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project?
If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.

- a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements?
If not, why not?
- b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project?
If so, please provide details.

Answer:

Yes, the Australian and New South Wales governments have been jointly funding the upgrade of the Pacific Highway since 1996.

- a. Yes
- b. No

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 94

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Melbourne-Brisbane Inland Rail

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$300 million to finalise plans, engineering design and environmental assessments for the Melbourne to Brisbane inland rail:

- a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department?
If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.
- b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.
- c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$300 million and include location and allocated funding amounts.
- d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyze the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.
- e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?

Answer:

- a. Yes. The Department has been advising the Government on implementation and governance options. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Hon Warren Truss MP, has announced the formation of a high-level Implementation Group for Inland Rail to be chaired by the former Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon John Anderson AO.
- b. The Department liaises with the Minister's Office on a regular basis. Any advice provided is advice to the Government.
- c. The Government's \$300 million commitment is for pre-construction activities including detailed corridor planning and preservation, environmental assessments, commencing land acquisition and community consultation. The work programme associated with these activities will be determined by the high level Implementation Group in early 2014.
- d. Yes, the Australian Government funded the 2010 Melbourne Brisbane Inland Rail Alignment Study, conducted by the Australian Rail Track Corporation.
- e. Yes.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 95

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Melbourne-Brisbane Inland Rail

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project?
If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.
 - a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements?
If not, why not?
 - b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project?
If so, please provide details.
2. Have any other rail projects been discussed with the department? If so, please provide details.

Answer:

1. The project will consider options for funding and financing of Inland Rail.
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No.
2. The Department regularly engages with a range of stakeholders on potential rail projects across the country.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 96

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bridge Repair

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to the Coalition's Election promise for \$300 million to upgrade the nation's deteriorating bridges (30 000 bridges need work):

- a. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.
- b. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.
- c. Please provide a list of projects to be funded out of the \$300 million and include location and allocated funding amounts.
- d. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyse the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.
- e. Has the full amount that was promised before the election been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?

Answer:

- a. Programme arrangements are currently being developed. No projects have yet been selected.
- b. The Department liaises with the Ministers Office on a regular basis and any advice provided is advice to the Government.
- c. See response to (a).
- d. See response to (a).
- e. Yes.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 97

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bridge Repair

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project?
If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.
 - a. Is the pre-election proposed cost still expected to meet the project(s) funding requirements?
If not, why not?
 - b. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project?
If so, please provide details.
2. How many of the 30 000 bridges the coalition has identified as deteriorating can be repaired for \$300 million? Please provide details

Answer:

1. The Bridges Renewal Programme will provide up to 50 per cent of the cost of bridge projects. States, Territories and Local Governments will be required to provide matching funding. A list of shared costs with relevant States/Territories cannot be provided as no projects have been selected.
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No.
2. See response to Question 96 (a).

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 98

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Toowoomba Range Crossing

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to the Coalition's Election promise to get the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing underway:

- a. Unlike the other projects, no figure was given to state how much funding the federal government would put towards this project. Has a figure been discussed, proposed or otherwise calculated with the department? If so, please specify how much and how it will be allocated within the project(s)?
- b. How much money is actually required to fully fund the project(s)?
- c. Has any work or planning for this project(s) been commenced by the department? If so, please detail, including dates and detail of what work or planning has commenced.
- d. Please provide a copy of any communication between the minister's office and the department regarding this project(s). These communications should include, but not be limited to: emails, letters, faxes, notes and memos.
- e. Please provide a list of projects to be funded and include location and allocated funding amounts.
- f. Have any reports or studies been commissioned to analyse the benefits and costs or any other aspect of this project(s)? If so, please provide a copy of each.
- g. Has the full amount that is required been allocated and / or budgeted in the forward estimated to the project? If not, why not?

Answer:

- a. The Australian Government has committed \$700 million toward the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing.
- b. The Queensland Government has identified a cost estimate for the project of \$1.66 billion.
- c. The planning of projects is the responsibility of the states and territories. In December 2012, the Queensland Government completed a Business Case for the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing project. The Executive Summary of the Business Case can be found online <<http://www.treasury.qld.gov.au/projects-queensland/projects/toowoomba-range-crossing/index.shtml>>
- d. The Department liaises with the Minister's Office on a regular basis and any advice provided is advice to the Government.
- e. This is a single project.
- f. In December 2012 the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads completed a Business Case analysing the benefits and costs of the project. The Business Case is classified *Commercial-In-Confidence* and as such, cannot be released.
- g. No. The Australian Government is liaising with the Queensland Governments to develop funding options for the project, including the potential for private sector involvement.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 99

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Toowoomba Range Crossing

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Are any other sources of funding being considered or already incorporated into funding this project?
If so, please provide a list of these sources including any shared costs with the relevant State/Territories.

a. Have any spending offsets been discussed to cover the cost of this project?

If so, please provide details.

Answer:

Refer to 98 (g).

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 100

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Name Change

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Why was the name of the Division changed to drop the phrase Nation Building?
2. What are the costs associated with the name change?
3. Has there been any reorganisation within the Division since the change of Government?
If so, can you explain the rationale for the change? Who drove the change?

Answer:

1. The Division's name was changed to Infrastructure Investment (II) to better align the title of the Division to its purpose. II is responsible for the development and implementation of a variety of infrastructure projects not just infrastructure projects funded under the *Nation Building Program (National Land Transport) Act 2009*.
2. There were no costs associated with the name change.
3. As a result the Government's Administrative Arrangement Order of 18 September 2013, regional programmes, previously administered by the former Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport, were moved to II.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 101

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement, 5 September 2013

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. What is the \$15 million proposed to be spent by mid-2014 on the Great Ocean Road for?
2. When will this project be complete?

Answer:

1. The project will involve various measures to improve the standard of the 243 kilometre Great Ocean Road in Victoria.
2. The Victorian Government has not provided a construction timeframe for this project.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 102

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement, 5 September 2013

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. What is the \$45 million proposed to be spent by mid-2014 on the Ravenswood interchange for?
2. When will this project be complete?

Answer:

1. The proposed project will provide a grade separation at the existing at-grade interchange between the Calder Highway and Calder Alternative Highway at Ravenswood.
2. The Victorian Government has not provided a construction timeframe for this project.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 103

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement, 5 September 2013

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. What is the \$3 million proposed to be spent by mid-2014 on the Condah-Hotspur Road for?
2. When will this project be complete?

Answer:

1. The proposed project will upgrade the 14.1 kilometre Condah-Hotspur Upper Road near Heywood.
2. The Victorian Government has not provided a construction timeframe for this project.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 104

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement, 5 September 2013

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. What is the \$5 million proposed to be spent by mid-2014 on the Princes Highway East for?
2. Where is this?
3. When will this project be complete?

Answer:

1. The project will involve construction of three overtaking lanes.
2. The overtaking lanes are on the 30 kilometre section of the Princes Highway East between Nowa Nowa and Orbost.
3. The Victorian Government has not provided a construction timeframe for this project.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 105

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement, 5 September 2013

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. What is the \$11 million proposed to be spent by mid-2015 on the Outback Way for?
2. When will this project commence?

Answer:

1. The Australian Government has committed to provide \$33 million. Funding is likely to be used for upgrading key parts of the Outback Highway between Winton in Queensland and Laverton in Western Australia.
2. The project is expected to commence in the 2014-15 financial year.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 106

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement, 5 September 2013

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. What is the \$13 million proposed to be spent by mid-2015 on the Kin Kora Roundabout for?
2. When will this project commence?

Answer:

1. The Australian Government has committed \$12.5 million towards the Kin Kora roundabout project in Gladstone, Queensland. The funding would go towards upgrading the roundabout to a four-way signalled traffic intersection.
2. The Queensland Government has indicated that planning for this project is expected to be completed in late 2014. A date for commencement of construction will be determined through the planning process.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 107

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement, 5 September 2013

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

When will the Jane Street extension commence in construction?

Answer:

The New South Wales Government has not provided a construction timeframe for this project.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 108

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement, 5 September 2013

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. When will the Narellan Road project commence in construction?
2. When will construction be complete?

Answer:

1. and 2. The New South Wales Government has not provided a construction timeframe for this project.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 109

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement, 5 September 2013

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. When month is scheduled for commencement of construction on the Moree Bypass stage 2?
2. When will construction be complete?

Answer:

1. and 2. The New South Wales Government has not provided a construction timeframe for this project.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 110

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement, 5 September 2013

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. What is the \$5 million proposed to be spent by mid-2015 on the Dalrymple Road project for?
2. When will construction on this project commence?
3. When will construction be complete?

Answer:

1. The Australian Government has committed \$20 million towards the Dalrymple Road project in Townsville, Queensland. The project is expected to involve the construction of a new raised bridge over the Bohle River.
- 2 & 3. The Townsville Council is currently undertaking the planning and design works for the project. A date for the commencement of construction and estimated construction timeline will be determined through the planning process.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 111

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement, 5 September 2013

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. What is the \$5 million proposed to be spent by mid-2015 on D'Aguilar Highway project for?
2. When will construction on this project commence?
3. When will construction be complete?

Answer:

1. The Australian Government will provide \$16 million in funding for targeted works to improve visibility, construct new turning lanes and guard rails, upgrade intersections and drainage and improve line markings to sections of the D'Aguilar Highway in Queensland.
- 2 & 3. The timing of construction on the various works will be determined through the planning works to be undertaken by the Queensland Government.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 112

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement, 5 September 2013

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Please list the 27 local road projects to be undertaken by mid-2015?
2. Has the \$26 million been allocated across these projects yet?
3. If so, please indicate the allocations against the projects.

Answer:

1-3. As at 30 November 2013, the Infrastructure Investment Programme is yet to be finalised with Government.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 113

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement September 5, 2013

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Please list the bridge projects that \$60 million allocated to the Bridges renewal programme by mid-2015 is to be spent on?
2. Has the \$60 million been allocated across these projects yet?
3. If so, please indicate the allocations against the projects.
4. When is each project scheduled for completion?

Answer:

1. The project arrangements are currently being developed. No projects have yet been selected.
2. See response to (1).
3. See response to (1).
4. See response to (1).

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 114

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Coalition Infrastructure Package Announcement, 5 September 2013

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Please indicate the projects in the Nation Building Program from which \$1685 million is to be defunded in 2013-4, and the amounts each is to be defunded.
2. Please indicate the projects in the Nation Building Program from which \$1571 million is to be defunded in 2014-5, and the amounts each is to be defunded.
3. Please indicate the projects in the Nation Building Program from which \$1571 million is to be defunded in 2015-6, and the amounts each is to be defunded.
4. Please indicate the projects in the Nation Building Program from which \$1306 million is to be defunded in 2016-7, and the amounts each is to be defunded.

Answer:

1-4. Nil.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 115

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bolivia Hill Realignment Project – Regional Infrastructure Fund (\$80 million)

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Please advise when this project is now scheduled to commence in construction.
2. How much is allocated to the project for 2014-5?
3. When will construction be complete?

Answer:

1. The Bolivia Hill Realignment – Planning report is being finalised. The report will recommend a solution to address the issue. The schedule for commencement of construction is being developed.
2. The Australian Government has allocated \$80 million to this project. The Australian Government is working with the NSW Government to finalise the infrastructure investment programme, which will include the cash flow for this project in 2014-2015.
3. The schedule for completion of construction is being developed.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 116

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Scone Rail Level Crossing – Regional Infrastructure Fund (\$45 million)

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Please advise when this project is now scheduled to commence in construction.
2. How much is allocated to the project for 2014-5?
3. When will construction be complete?

Answer:

1. The Scone Level Crossing feasibility report is being finalised. The report will recommend a solution to address the issue. The schedule for commencement of construction is being developed.
2. The Australian Government has allocated \$45 million to this project. The Australian Government is working with the NSW Government to finalise the infrastructure investment programme, which will include the cash flow for this project in 2014-15.
3. The schedule for completion of construction is being developed.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 117

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Maldon-Dombarton Rail Line

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Please advise when this project is now scheduled to commence in construction.
2. How much is allocated to the project for 2014-5 and the subsequent five years?
3. When will construction be complete?

Answer:

1. The current commitment of \$25.5 million to the Maldon to Dombarton Rail Link is for the scoping and development of the project. No decision has been made on construction of the project.
2. The Maldon to Dombarton Rail Link Scoping and Development is scheduled to be completed in June 2014. No further funding commitment has been made to the project.
3. Answers 1 and 2 refers.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 118

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Tourle St Bridge and Cormorant Road (\$52 million)

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Please advise when this project is now scheduled to commence in construction.
2. How much is allocated to the project for 2014-5 and the subsequent five years?
3. When will construction be complete?

Answer:

1, 2 and 3 The Australian Government is still settling its infrastructure investment programme.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 119

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Cape York Roads Package (\$210 million)

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Please advise when this project is now scheduled to commence in construction.
2. How much is allocated to the project for 2014-5 and the subsequent five years?
3. When will construction be complete?

Answer:

1. The Australian Government is working with the Queensland Government to determine a start date for construction on the Cape York Roads Package.
2. The Australian Government has committed \$210 million to the Cape York Regional Package, with funding to be provided between 2014-15 and 2018-19. Annual funding allocations are yet to be determined.
3. To be determined.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 120

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Peak Downs Highway Upgrade (\$120 million)

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Please advise when this project is now scheduled to commence in construction.
2. How much is allocated to the project for 2014-5 and the subsequent five years?
3. When will construction be complete?

Answer:

1. Detailed planning and design work is ongoing, with construction expected to commence in early 2015.
2. The Australian Government has committed \$120 million to the Peak Downs Highway Upgrade. \$80 million of this funding is allocated from 2014-15.
3. Construction is expected to be complete in late 2016.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 121

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Ballarat Freight Hub (\$9.1 million)

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Please advise when this project is now scheduled to commence in construction.
2. How much is allocated to the project for 2014-5 and the subsequent five years?
3. When will construction be complete?

Answer:

- 1-3. As of 30 November 2013, the Government was yet to announce its infrastructure investment programme.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 122

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: National Network Maintenance

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Please advise if there have been any changes to funds allocated for 2014-5 or across the forward estimates. If so, what are the changes in allocation by year?

Answer:

1. The formula component of National Land Transport Network maintenance funding has increased from \$300.0 million per annum for 2009-10 to 2013-14 to \$350.0 million per annum for 2014-15 to 2018-19.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 123

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Perth Public Transport Package

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Has the priority you were allocating to this project changed since the election? If yes, why?
2. Have you received any representations from the relevant State Government with respect to the status of this Project since 18 September 2013?
3. Have you had any correspondence with the relevant State Government with respect to the status of this Project since 18 September 2013?
4. Has the Department had any discussions with Infrastructure Australia on this project since 18 September 2013?

Answer:

1. Since the election, the Australian Government has a policy not to fund new urban passenger rail projects.
2. No.
3. No.
4. No.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 124

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Melbourne Metro Project

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Has the priority you were allocating to this project changed since the election? If yes, why?
2. Have you received any representations from the relevant State Government with respect to the status of this Project since 18 September 2013?
3. Have you had any correspondence with the relevant State Government with respect to the status of this Project since 18 September 2013?
4. Has the Department had any discussions with Infrastructure Australia on this project since 18 September 2013?

Answer:

1. Since the election, the Australian Government has a policy not to fund new urban passenger rail projects.
2. No.
3. No. However, the Department has provided correspondence on the now completed \$40 million Melbourne Metro 1 planning project.
4. No.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 125

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Brisbane Cross City Rail

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Has the priority you were allocating to this project changed since the election? If yes, why?
2. Have you received any representations from the relevant State Government with respect to the status of this Project since 18 September 2013?
3. Have you had any correspondence with the relevant State Government with respect to the status of this Project since 18 September 2013?
4. Has the Department had any discussions with Infrastructure Australia on this project since 18 September 2013?

Answer:

1. Since the election, the Australian Government has a policy not to fund new urban passenger rail projects.
2. No.
3. No.
4. No.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 126

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Tonsley Park Public Transport Project

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Has the priority you were allocating to this project changed since the election? If yes, why?
2. Have you received any representations from the relevant State Government with respect to the status of this Project since 18 September 2013?
3. Have you had any correspondence with the relevant State Government with respect to the status of this Project since 18 September 2013?
4. Has the Department had any discussions with Infrastructure Australia on this project since 18 September 2013?

Answer:

1. Since the election, the Australian Government has a policy not to fund new urban passenger rail projects.
2. Yes
3. Yes
4. No

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 127

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Westconnex

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. How much funding is the Federal government providing to NSW for the \$3.4-\$3.6 billion cost of Stage 1?
2. Has the Department done any work on costing the WestConnex project?
3. What is the Department's view of the total cost of the project, including all Stages?
4. What percentage of the WestConnex project will be funded through user payments or tolls?
5. What percentage of Stage 1 of WestConnex will be funded through tolls?
6. Has the Department done any work in estimating the toll levels needed to fund the project?
7. The Prime Minister had previously said that \$1.5 billion of Federal funding was conditional on the project including M4 East – is this section included in Stage 1 as announced on 19 September?
8. Is the Federal Government attaching any conditions to its funding of the project now?
9. What is the timeframe for Stage 1 of WestConnex?
10. What role will Department officers have in the project and how many departmental staff will be working on the project? What are their classifications? (ie, SES1 etc).
11. Will any work on this project be outsourced or contracted out by the Department?
12. When will work commence and what work will be included in the first tenders?
13. Has any funding been provided to NSW Government for this project yet? Is the funding being provided in one lump sum or will there be a series of payments?
14. If more than one payment, what are the milestones and payment amounts?
15. Has the Department had any discussions with Infrastructure Australia regarding this project? If so, what were the discussions about?
16. Is the Department aware of whether this project has been identified as a priority project by Infrastructure Australia?

Answer:

1. The Australian Government has committed \$1.5 billion (nominal) to the entire WestConnex project (that is, for Stages 1, 2 and 3).
2. No.
3. The WestConnex Business Case Executive Summary states that the total expected cost of the project is \$11-11.5 billion (\$2012).
4. This is a matter for the New South Wales Government. On 31 October 2013, Duncan Gay MLC, NSW Minister for Roads and Ports indicated that exact tolling details are unlikely to be confirmed until construction starts. .
5. This is matter for the New South Wales Government.
6. No.
7. Stage 1, from Church Street to Parramatta Road and City West Link, includes M4 Widening and the M4 East.
8. The WestConnex project is subject to the same conditions as all Australian Government funded projects, in that it must meet the requirements of the National Partnership Agreement on Implementation of Major Infrastructure Projects in New South Wales and the Notes on Administration.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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9. Planning for Stage 1 of the WestConnex project is currently underway and will continue until 2015. Construction is expected to commence in 2015 with the project expected to open to traffic in 2019.
10. A range of departmental officers currently involved in the Infrastructure Investment programme will administer this project.
11. The Department has engaged external consultants to provide advice on the WestConnex project.
12. Construction work is expected to commence on the WestConnex project in 2015, on Stage 1: M4 widening and M4 East between Church Street, Parramatta and Parramatta Road and City West Link, Haberfield. On 10 October 2013, the NSW Premier, the Hon Barry O'Farrell MP, and the NSW Minister for Roads and Ports, the Hon Duncan Gay MLC, announced the first major tender for WestConnex, the environmental impact assessment of the M4 Widening, had been let.
13. On 7 March 2012, the Australian Government provided \$25 million in a single payment to NSW to advance planning and develop the business case for the WestConnex project.
14. Not applicable.
15. Yes, departmental officers have discussed the scope of the project with officers at Infrastructure Australia.
16. Infrastructure Australia assessed the WestConnex project for its priority list before the WestConnex Business Case was complete. In the June 2013, National Infrastructure Plan, Infrastructure Australia identified WestConnex as an early stage project.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 128

Program: 1.1

Division/Agency: (II) Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Tonkin Highway

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Is the Department currently funding, or planning to fund, any grade separations on the Tonkin Highway? If so, when will these begin?
2. How much is being allocated?

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. The Gateway WA project includes the following grade separations:
 - Tonkin Highway and Leach Highway;
 - Tonkin Highway, Horrie Miller Drive and Kewdale Road; and
 - Tonkin Highway and Roe Highway (upgrade of the existing interchange).

The Australian Government investment in the Gateway WA project is \$686.4 million. With respect to further projects, the Australian Government is currently finalising the Infrastructure Investment Programme in Western Australia. The Government will announce the projects to be funded under the programme once it is finalised.