



Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025–26
Monday, 1 December 2025
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.55pm.

The committee called the Department Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts Portfolio, discussing the following topics:

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Corporate matters

- Efficiency savings;
- Speed limits on regional roads;
- APS Employee Census results;
- Flexible working arrangements of departmental staff;
- Attendance of department officials at the Joint Asia-Pacific Function in Montreal September 2025;
- Transport and Infrastructure Net Zero Roadmap and Action Plan released in September 2025;
- Financial Stability Taskforce – Korda Mentha report;
- Efficiency dividends relating to staffing costs; and
- Aviation white paper and net zero action plan.

Outcome 1 - Improved infrastructure across Australia through investment in and coordination of transport and other infrastructure

- Updates on infrastructure projects by state;
- Housing objectives of high-speed rail;
- Fair Work Commission allegations of corruption in Victorian projects;
- High Productivity Vehicle Network Project;
- Black Spot Program;
- Keys2drive program discontinuation;
- Education for learner drivers; and
- Commonwealth direct control of railroads and freight networks.

Outcome 2 - An efficient, sustainable, competitive, safe and secure transport system for all transport users through regulation, financial assistance and safety investigations

- Maritime strategic fleet;
- Diesel fuel tax credits;
- Net Zero electric vehicles – new vehicle efficiency standards (NVES);
- 'Dumping' of electric vehicles;
- Review of the NVES;
- National Connected and Automated Vehicle Action Plan;
- International Maritime Organisation's Net Zero Framework;

- Grounding of A320 aircraft (Jetstar);
- Aviation Consumer Protections Framework;
- Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme; and
- Australian Transport Safety and Investigation Bodies Financial Sustainability Review.

Outcome 3 - Strengthening the sustainability, capacity and diversity of Australia's urban and regional areas including northern Australia, including through facilitating local partnerships between all levels of government and local communities; through investment in infrastructure and measures that stimulate economic growth; and providing grants and financial assistance

- Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program;
- Kirwin's Bridge;
- Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program; and
- Benefits to First Nations communities through the Growing Regions Program.

Outcome 4 - Good governance and service delivery in the Australian territories including through the maintenance and improvement of the laws and services for non-self-governing territories, and the overarching legislative framework for self-governing territories

- Air services to Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands;
- Norfolk Island Passenger Transfer Vessels; and
- Norfolk Island Governance Committee transition to Norfolk Island Assembly.

Airservices Australia

- Decommissioning of the instrument landing system at Townsville Airport;
- Simultaneous opposite direction parallel runway operations; and
- Flight paths at Hobart Airport.

Civil Aviation Safety Authority

- Flight training of pilots; and
- Death of pilots during training checks.

Infrastructure Australia

- Infrastructure Priority List; and
- Suburban Rail Loop.

Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility

- Extension of NAIF's operation for a further 10 years.

Australian Rail Track Corporation and Inland Rail Pty Ltd

- ARTC Board and governance;
- Site induction processes; and
- Frost Street pedestrian underpass in Euroa.

High Speed Rail Authority

- Greenhouse gas emissions and environmental approvals on the Newcastle to Sydney route.

National Heavy Vehicle Regulator

- Truck drivers' medical checks.

Western Sydney Airport

- Passenger services and flight schedules

National Transport Commission

- Board members and governance; and
- National Standard for Health Assessment of Rail Safety Workers.

The committee will resume its examination of the Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025–26 with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio at 9:00am on Tuesday, 2 December 2025.

Please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 3511 or rrat.sen@aph.gov.au if you have any questions.