

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 259

Topic: Local Implementation Plans

Hansard Page: written

Senator Boyce asked:

How has the delay in the provision of base-line maps, which were meant to inform the development of the local Implementation Plans, to communities impacted the quality of the local implementation plans (LIPs)?

Answer:

The baseline mapping reports were used to inform the development of the local implementation plans. Also in most instances the reports just confirmed what was already understood. Baseline mapping is just one of many inputs to LIPs.

- Draft versions of the baseline reports were readily available within government from the first week of March 2010, well before any LIPs had been developed. Information in the draft reports could and was used in the development of LIPs. The time from March 2010 to the finalisation of each report required obtaining agreement on the detailed content with all relevant Commonwealth departments and the respective jurisdictions and their agencies. The key findings of the reports did not change through this process.
- Final full baseline reports were provided to 22 of the 29 RSD communities before the local implementation plans were finalised (this includes communities that are yet to complete LIPs). A number of the local implementation plans have incorporated key findings of the baseline mapping reports, such as the schedule B's in most of the 15 NT baseline mapping reports.
- Issues identified through the baseline reports can and have been addressed outside the local implementation plan process. As an example, some of the early items identified in the draft reports (prior to any local implementation plans being produced) were addressed through funding decisions.
 - This included the NT Government providing monies in their 2010 budget to update some barge landings that were identified as an important issue in the baseline reports (e.g. Nguiu, Gapuwiyak, Maningrida and Galiwin'ku). The 2010 NT Budget also provided funding to upgrade roads (e.g. Umbakumba road, Wadeye road and Yuendumu road) that were identified as important issues in the baseline reports.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings

- Material from the reports was shared with the then Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and were taken into account in the following funding allocations. On 23 April 2010 the then Hon Dr Mike Kelly, Parliamentary Secretary for Water, announced funding of \$51.7 million to improve water and wastewater services in 17 indigenous communities to address important issues surrounding water and waste water. Fourteen of which were RSD communities totalling over \$36 million of the \$51.7 million.
(<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/archive/ps/2010/mr20100423.html>)