

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 182
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 4.1
Programme: Water (WTR)
Topic: Tasmanian Irrigation Project
Hansard Page: 99
Question Date: 25 May 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Mr Robertson: All five of them were subject to the work that Infrastructure Australia did.

Senator URQUHART: What is their advice in relation to those five projects?

Mr Robertson: I do not have the detailed advice with me at the moment. Essentially, with the work that Infrastructure Australia was doing, I think they concluded that the information available to them showed that there were potentially positive cost-benefit analyses. I cannot think of the exact words that Infrastructure Australia used.

Senator URQUHART: Given that you do not have that with you, are you happy to take that on notice?

Mr Robertson: Yes, we can do that.

Answer:

Infrastructure Australia published a Project Assessment on the Tasmanian Irrigation Tranche Two Program in March 2015. Based on its assessment to date, Infrastructure Australia recommends that “The project remains on the Infrastructure Australia’s Priority List as Real Potential, pending detailed consideration of further information received from the Tasmanian Government.”

The Assessment Brief also notes “The Tasmanian Government has also announced changes to the scope of the program. Infrastructure is clarifying the project’s scope with the Tasmanian Government”.

The link to Infrastructure Australia’s Project Assessments is:

<http://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/projects/project-assessments.aspx>