

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016 - 2017 Additional Estimates
2 March 2017

AGENCY: NORTHERN AUSTRALIA INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY

TOPIC: NAIF projects by federal electorate

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 March 2017, page 129)

QUESTION No.: AI-55

Senator KETTER: Thank you. On the last occasion, Senator Canavan advised us that there were 80 projects that had expressed an interest and one project had advanced to due diligence stage. If I read your opening statement correctly, there are four, nearly five, 'transactions', as you call them, at the due diligence stage?

Ms Walker: That is correct, yes.

Senator KETTER: The one that has strong prospects is still in the strategic assessment stage—is that right?

Ms Walker: No, there are four projects that are in due diligence and, as I said, we are expecting that there might be another one shortly. We think at least four have strong prospects of requiring NAIF finance and reaching financial close. There are a lot of gates that NAIF financing needs to progress through, but that is our expectation at this point. Of course, we are a gap financier, so, if the private sector or other financiers can fill the gap, then NAIF may have done its job by attracting other financing. But we expect that there will be NAIF finance.

Senator KETTER: You have helpfully given us a breakdown by sector and also by state of the number of inquiries that you have had. When you say you have had 100 inquiries, is that for that first-stage inquiry, preliminary assessment period?

Ms Walker: That is right, and that is tracking from NAIF's inception.

Senator KETTER: Can you break down the projects by federal electorate as well?

Senator CANAVAN: I think the difficulty is that, depending on the nature of the project, some could be quite large given the potential infrastructure. How about we take that on notice. There might be some construction we can place on that. We will see how we go.

Ms Walker: What I can say is that at the moment our pipeline does not take that into account, so we would have to do work on that.

Mr Lawson: A number of them are actually multijurisdictional let alone in a particular area.

Senator KETTER: Okay, please take that on notice.

ANSWER

The NAIF's jurisdiction of focus is across all of Northern Australia. As at 18 April 2017 NAIF had 111 enquiries. The breakdown of these 111 enquiries by State or Territory is as follows:

- Queensland (53%)
- Northern Territory (20%)
- Western Australia (21%)
- Cross-jurisdictional (6%)

As indicated in response to SI-39 from the 2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates a further breakdown by electorate is not available. A breakdown by electorate could enable potential projects to be identified and result in commercial in confidence information being released. Refer to AI-54 for further information.