

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Commonwealth-State Relations Division

Question No: 184

Topic: Infrastructure Spending

Reference: Hansard page 67 (29 May 2017)

Senator: Whish-Wilson, Peter

Question:

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Inland rail being one of the big ones.

Mr M Brennan: Yes. That one is a financial asset investment. So, inland rail, the NBN, where a substantial amount of money went into a commercial loan to the NBN to complete the build—it was \$19.5 billion over two years—that is bolstering the amounts, probably in 2017-18 and 2018-19, and then it is falling away a bit. So I think it is a function of some large things that are going on at the moment.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: The second chart I have done on infrastructure spending is a graph on defence and non-defence capital spending for the forward estimates. I have taken the data from table 48 on page 99 of BP 1.4—1.4A. My office worked back on old budget papers to try to find what the cash outlays were there for defence. Perhaps you can take that on notice. I would be interested to know if those numbers are correct. As we see, there was quite a significant rise the defence spending as part of total capital spending, and, of course, a drop-off in non-defence spending.

Mr M Brennan: We will take that on notice. I think it is quite plausible, because, as I said, a substantial amount of that direct capital investment line is defence. The fact that it is increasing suggests that defence may be a significant contributor to that, which probably means that your analysis is quite plausible. We will go away and have a look at it.

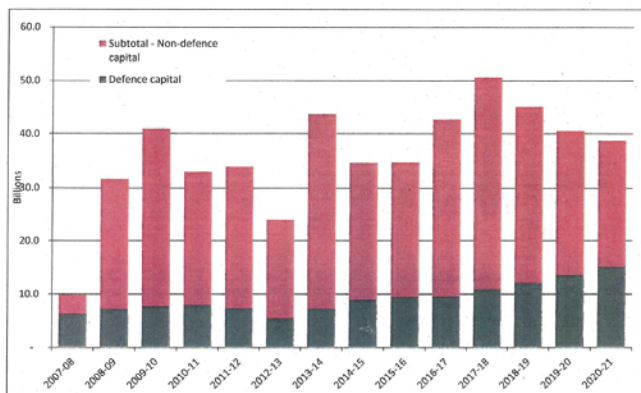
Answer:

Senator Whish-Wilson provided the following chart:

INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING

Graph: Defence and non-defence capital spending

Defence cash outlays taken from Portfolio Budget Statements



PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF SENATOR WHISH-WILSON.

BP 1.4A
TABLE 48 (p. 99)

The chart appears to represent a reasonable estimate of the split between defence and non-defence capital spending.