

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-18**

Finance Portfolio  
24-25 May 2017

**Department/Agency:** Finance  
**Outcome/Program:** 1/1.1  
**Topic:** National Rail Program

**Senator:** McAllister

**Question reference number:** F19

**Type of question:** Hansard Proof, 24 May 2017, F&PA Committee, Page 67, 68

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 7 July 2017

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

**Senator McALLISTER:** ... Can we confirm the total funding for the National Rail Program that was announced in the budget.

**Senator Cormann:** Ten billion dollars.

**Senator McALLISTER:** It is \$10 billion?

**Senator Cormann:** Yes.

...

**Senator McALLISTER:** What is the time period over which the \$10 billion figure will be delivered?

**Senator Cormann:** It has been allocated over the medium term, but, in the end, because this is infrastructure funding, these sorts of profiles—

**Senator McALLISTER:** So over the decade?

**Senator Cormann:** Yes, over the decade. These sorts of profiles can be adjusted depending on the speed with which projects come on stream. The decisions that we have made so far, bearing in mind that there has not been a specific decision in relation to a specific project, are indicative based on our expectations of when projects are likely to come on stream.

**Senator McALLISTER:** So we do not know what projects they are but we think \$200 million of them will come on stream in 2019-20?

**Senator Cormann:** That is an indicative expectation. We have a fair idea of projects that are in the pipeline around Australia and we have a fair expectation as to what projects might be submitted for consideration as part of this \$10 billion program. Many of them still have to go through the business case process, and obviously there is a timetable involved there.

**Senator McALLISTER:** Okay. Is it your expectation that the \$10 billion will be used for grants funding or do you envisage other mechanisms?

**Senator Cormann:** This is an allocation for grant funding; this is not an equity allocation.

**Senator McALLISTER:** Loans?

**Senator Cormann:** This particular program—

**Senator McALLISTER:** The \$10 billion program we are talking about here.

**Senator Cormann:** This is a grants program.

**Senator McALLISTER:** It is a grants program exclusively?

**Senator Cormann:** Yes, that is right.

**Senator McALLISTER:** Can you provide a year-by-year profile? Can you provide a profile of the \$10 billion as you modelled it? I appreciate that it is indicative. These things move around, as do all things, in the medium term.

**Senator Cormann:** I will take that on notice, yes.

**Senator McALLISTER:** You cannot provide it now?

**Senator Cormann:** No.

**Senator McALLISTER:** You must have it with you.

**Senator Cormann:** Budgets are four-year programs and we are reviewing the four-year forward estimates. I will have to take it on notice if you want me to give you a profile over a ten-year period. Incidentally, I believe that Infrastructure took that on notice for precisely the same reason yesterday.

**Answer:**

The funding profile for the National Rail Program is shown in the table below:

	2017-18 (\$m)	2018-19 (\$m)	2019-20 (\$m)	2020-21 (\$m)
National Rail Program	0.0	0.0	200.0	400.0

The year-on-year funding profile beyond the forward estimates has not yet been determined and will be finalised as commitments are made.