

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016-17

Finance Portfolio
18 October 2016

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 2/2.1

Topic: Perth Freight Link – access to Fiona Stanley Hospital

Senator: Siewert

Question reference number: F17

Type of question: Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 57-58, 18 October 2016

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 2 December 2016

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: Why, then, do you refuse to provide basic information around claims that the freight link would reduce congestion and accidents and improve access to Fiona Stanley Hospital? Why is it not in the public interest to release that information?

Senator Cormann: This well and truly goes beyond my area of expertise. Because I have a particular interest in this very important public infrastructure project, I am really keen to assist and be helpful, but this is a very detailed infrastructure portfolio related question. I am happy to take it on notice and see how I can assist on notice, but it is not something that, on the spot like this, I can provide an adequately accurate response to you on.

...

Senator Cormann: ... But, as I have already indicated to you, this is a very specific infrastructure related question. If you want a more precise and adequate explanation as to why, in the government's judgement, it is not in the public interest for that specific information to be publicly released, then I have already taken that on notice and I am happy to assist with providing either a response or an explanation as to why a response cannot be provided.

Answer:

The Western Australian Government has released information on the benefits of the Perth Freight Link project, including reduced congestion, improved safety and improved access to the Murdoch Activity Centre and Fiona Stanley Hospital. That information is available on the Main Roads Western Australia website at

<https://project.mainroads.wa.gov.au/perthfreightlink/Pages/default.aspx>.

There is also detailed information, including traffic modelling, available in the publication 'Perth Freight Link Project/Developing Transport Networks; Delivering Safer Roads, April 2016, Version 1' available at

<https://project.mainroads.wa.gov.au/perthfreightlink/newsinfo/Pages/default.aspx>.

The release of further detailed information is a matter for the project owner, the Western Australian Government.

Further questions on the Perth Freight Link project are a matter for the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, as the responsible Commonwealth portfolio agency.