

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2014

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 193

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: Australian Rail Track Corporation

Topic: QR Negotiations

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Sterle, Glenn asked:

1. Can you advise on the status on your discussions with QR re purchase of railway assets?
2. Are these ongoing?
3. Is it likely there will be an outcome this financial year?

Answer:

1-2. ARTC has been undertaking an assessment of the benefits of incorporating the Queensland regional freight network into the ARTC network. The assessment has been undertaken with the support of QR and Queensland Government and ARTC is currently in the final stages of concluding its investigations.

ARTC has advised the Queensland Government and QR that it expects to be in a position to finalise its investigation report in the 2014 year. This timing is subject to the consent of ARTC's Board and Shareholders.

3. No.

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Question no.: 194

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: Australian Rail Track Corporation

Topic: Dividends

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Sterle, Glenn asked:

1. Does ARTC pay dividends to the Australian Government?
2. How long has it been doing so?
3. Can you provide the dividends paid to Government over those years, by year, including:
 - a. 2001-2 to 2010-11 (10 years)
 - b. 2011-12
 - c. 2012-13
 - d. 2013-14
4. Has the Government requested an increased dividend from ARTC in the 2014-5 financial year?
5. Does ARTC have an outlook or expectation re future dividend payments to government? If so, what is it?

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. ARTC paid dividends from 2000-2005 inclusive and in 2014.
3.

	\$ Million
a. 2001-2011	30.215 (2000-2005 inclusive)
b. 2011-12	0.000
c. 2012-13	0.000
d. 2013-14	36.000
4. No.
5. Yes. ARTC expects to continue to pay dividends from 2013/14 onwards as determined by the Shareholder Ministers on an annual basis in accordance with GBE Guidelines.

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Question no.: 195

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: Australian Rail Track Corporation

Topic: Privatisation

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Sterle, Glenn asked:

1. Is ARTC undertaking any work or projects that arise or relate to a potential decision to privatise ARTC?
2. What work/projects and what are the costs?
3. Has ARTC expressed a view about the potential sale of the business? If yes, what?
4. Has ARTC expressed a view about the timing of any sale? If yes, what?

Answer:

1. No.
2. Not applicable.
3. No.
4. No.

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Question no.: 196

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: Australian Rail Track Corporation

Topic: Capital Works

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Sterle, Glenn asked:

1. Can you advise of the profile of your spending across coming years for capital projects over \$20M in total value, by project, for each of the following years:
 - a. 2013-4
 - b. 2014-5
 - c. 2015-6
 - d. 2016-7
 - e. 2017-8
 - f. Years beyond
2. Are any of these new projects? Which?

Answer:

1. The future spending profile on the capital projects is subject to business needs which are assessed on a project by project basis and submitted for ARTC Board approval as required.

ARTC, in consultation with industry, prepares annually the Hunter Valley Corridor Strategy which it publishes on its website. This document identifies those indicative projects that may be required over the next 10 years to support growth in coal volumes.
2. Projects to support growth in freight volumes is a matter subject to ongoing review with industry.

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Question no.: 197

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: Australian Rail Track Corporation

Topic: Inland Rail

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Sterle, Glenn asked:

1. Can you advise of the profile of your spending on Inland Rail, for each of the following years:
 - a. 2013-14
 - b. 2014-15
 - c. 2015-16
 - d. 2016-17
 - e. 2017-18
 - f. Years beyond
2. How has the profile changed from the 2013-14 financial year?

Answer:

1. The Australian Government has made the following financial commitment to Inland Rail:

	2013-14 (\$m)	2014-15 (\$m)	2015-16 (\$m)	2016-17 (\$m)	2017-18 (\$m)
2014-15 Budget Estimate	1.34	48.66	90.0	100.0	60.0

The Government will make a decision on further financial commitments to Inland Rail once the Inland Rail Implementation Group has finalised its advice. The Implementation Group is expected to also provide advice on funding and financing options for Inland Rail.

2. Funding has been brought forward. The 2013-14 funding profile was:

	2013-14 (\$m)	2014-15 (\$m)	2015-16 (\$m)	2016-17 (\$m)	2017-18 (\$m)
2013-14 Budget Estimate		30.0	30.0	120.0	120.0

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Question no.: 198

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: Australian Rail Track Corporation

Topic: WestConnex

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Sterle, Glenn asked:

1. Has ARTC expressed a view on the non-connection of Westconnex with Port Botany?
2. Does ARTC have a view on this matter? Is so, what is it?

Answer:

1. No.
2. ARTC is focussed on working with all parties to increase rail's market share of containers to and from Port Botany. ARTC has had preliminary discussions with the Westconnex Project team on potential impacts on the Port Botany rail corridor as a result of construction works.