

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

**Question no.: 01**

**Program:** N/A

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Ministerial Responsibilities

**Proof Hansard Page:** 6 (19 October 2015)

**Senator Gallacher, Alex asked:**

...

**Senator GALLACHER:** Okay. Do we actually know which ones he is going to have responsibility for? Are they able to be listed?

**Mr Mrdak:** Yes, I can provide that for you.

**Senator GALLACHER:** I think it would be helpful if you could do that. But that will be subject to a charter letter—is that right?

**Mr Mrdak:** It is in place now. The charter letter will simply confirm the arrangements that have been put in place.

**Senator GALLACHER:** Okay. So the arrangements are done, it is just that the charter letter has not been issued—is that right?

**Mr Mrdak:** That is correct.

**Senator GALLACHER:** Does that then apply equally to ministers Truss, Fletcher and McCormack—exactly what they are going to be doing?

**Mr Mrdak:** As I have described, the arrangements are settled. The charter letter will simply confirm the areas and particularly provide priorities that the government—

**Senator GALLACHER:** So can we get a list of their respective responsibilities?

**Mr Mrdak:** Yes, I can provide that for you.

**Senator GALLACHER:** And will you get that by the end of the day so that—

**Mr Mrdak:** I will endeavour to do that, yes.

**Answer:**

The Hon Warren Truss MP

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development

- Aviation
- Transport Security
- Maritime
- Surface Transport Policy
- Infrastructure Investment Programme and National Partnership Agreement/National Investment Policy
- Regional Development
- Regional Programmes including National Stronger Regions
- Regional Development Australia

The Hon Paul Fletcher MP

Minister for Territories, Local Government and Major Projects

- Territories
- Local Government
- Major Projects
- Infrastructure Australia
- Infrastructure Reform Agenda
- Motor Vehicle Safety Act review / Vehicle Safety Standards

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

- Roads to Recovery
- Black Spots
- Heavy Vehicle Safety Programme

The Hon Michael McCormack MP

Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister

- Regional Development Policy
- Road Safety
- Stronger Communities Programme
- National Stronger Regions Administration/Implementation
- Community Development Grants programme

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**  
**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

**Question no.: 02**

**Program:** N/A

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Legal Costs - Administrative Appeals Tribunal

**Proof Hansard Page:** 14 & 105 (19 October 2015)

**Senator Gallacher, Alex asked:**

**Senator GALLACHER:** Legal costs: in the respect to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal matter between MacTiernan and the Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, which was in the Perth registry 2015, what legal fees have been incurred by the department?

**Mr Mrdak:** I will check if I have those details with me. Sorry, Senator, we do not have that detail. I will take that on notice, if you don't mind.

**Senator GALLACHER:** Can you get it to us over the course of the day?

**Mr Mrdak:** We will certainly endeavour to, yes.

....

**Senator BULLOCK:** You will recall that we asked what costs the department incurred in attempting to prevent Alannah MacTiernan from gaining freedom of information access and I believe there is answer.

**Mr Wilson:** Yes, I believe the costs were in the order of \$20,000. I will take the question on notice, as we did this morning, and provide you with a precise number, but I am advised it was in that rough order of estimate.

**Answer:**

The Department incurred \$14,000 in legal fees in respect to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal matter between MacTiernan and the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

**Question no.: 03**

**Program:** N/A

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Charter Letter

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Gallacher asked:**

Please provide the PM's Charter letter, or alternatively, the content of the letter that is in place, as at:

- (i) October 31, 2015
- (ii) November 30, 2015
- (iii) December 31, 2015,

if different versions apply at these dates

**Answer:**

The Prime Minister's Charter letter is addressed to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Hon Warren Truss MP. Requests for information about the Charter letter should be directed to the office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**  
**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

**Question no.:** 04

**Program:** N/A

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Contracts on foot

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Gallacher asked:**

For each of the contracts listed and summarised in Attachment A, please provide the following:

- (i) The Departmental Division which commissioned the contract
- (ii) The reason for commissioning the contract
- (iii) The scope of the contract
- (iv) How the contract helps achieve portfolio Outcomes.

A description of the goods or services to be provided under the contract.

**Answer:**

Please refer to Attachment A.1 – Contracts on foot.

## ATTACHMENT A.1 – Contracts on foot

Description	Division	Supplier	The reason for commissioning the contract	Scope of the contract	How the contract helps achieve portfolio Outcomes
Infrastructure Performance measures	Infrastructure Australia	ARUP PTY LTD	Infrastructure performance benchmarking will assist in the prioritisation of infrastructure investment nationally, as well as helping individual agencies in their own performance assessment and prioritisation processes. A supplier was engaged to provide these services as the expertise and resources required to provide infrastructure performance benchmarking is not currently available within the Department. At the time of engagement, Infrastructure Australia was part of the Department.	Provision of performance benchmarking of infrastructure including the identification, explanation and measurement of key performance indicators in the energy, water, communications and transport sectors.	Performance benchmarking of infrastructure contributes to Outcome 1: Improved infrastructure across Australia through investment in and coordination of transport and other infrastructure.
National Hospital Injury Data	Policy and Research	AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE	The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare injury report series is important for the Department's work in monitoring progress under the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020.	Covers production of hospitalised traffic-related injury report series (national and jurisdiction tables) and specific reports as agreed (e.g. rail) using the National Hospital Morbidity Database.	These hospitalised injury series help fill a major gap in national injury data and reporting of trends in traffic-related injury. This assists in supporting Outcome 2: An efficient, sustainable, competitive, safe and secure transport system for all transport users through regulation, financial assistance and safety investigations.
Noise Insulation	Aviation and Airports	BROWN FALCONER GROUP PTY LTD	Government budget commitment to insulate the St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Thebarton, South Australia, against aircraft noise.	The scope of the contract is for the supplier: to design a system to insulate the St Nicholas Church and Hall against the effects of aircraft noise; to produce design documents and drawings which will be used to tender for a builder to implement the design; and to oversee the construction tender and the construction and defects phases of the works.	This contract is directly related to the implementation of an Administered Item "Implementation of noise amelioration for Adelaide Airport" under Outcome 2: An efficient, sustainable, competitive, safe and secure transport system for all transport users through regulation, financial assistance and safety investigations.
Advice on Delivering Inland Rail	Infrastructure Investment	DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU	The contract was commissioned to provide the Department with advice on the Inland Rail proposal being developed by the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), on behalf of the Government.	To independently validate the 'base case scenario' against which the benefits of Inland Rail will be defined and the optimal service offering for the Inland Rail investment.	The contract helps the portfolio achieve Outcome 1: improved infrastructure across Australia through investment in and coordination of transport and other infrastructure by ensuring that the Inland Rail proposal is robustly tested.
Contractor Staff	Office of Transport Security	DFP BUSINESS TRUST T/A DFP RECRUITMENT SERVICES PTY LTD	A vacancy was advertised internally with no suitable applicant found. Due to external recruitment constraints, a contractor was required to fill this position and was sourced through the Recruitment panel.	The contractor undertakes tasks at the Executive Level 2 and is responsible for managing the daily activities of the Strategy, Governance & Communications Section within the Office of Transport Security.	The contract contributes to Outcome 2: an efficient, sustainable, competitive, safe and secure transport system for all transport users through regulation, financial assistance and safety investigations. The contract ensures there are sufficient resources to undertake the day-to-day operations of the Office of Transport Security.

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>The reason for commissioning the contract</b>	<b>Scope of the contract</b>	<b>How the contract helps achieve portfolio Outcomes</b>
Report on Infrastructure Value Capture	Infrastructure Australia	ERNST & YOUNG	The Department requires investigation into new approaches to funding and innovative sources of revenue for infrastructure projects, including value capture. The expertise and resources required to investigate such options is not currently available within the Department.	Development of a National value capture framework as a means of bringing together existing research and initiatives into a consistent policy document.	Through investigation of new approaches and innovative sources of revenue the report on infrastructure value capture contributes to Outcome 1: improved infrastructure across Australia through investment in and coordination of transport and other infrastructure.
Infrastructure Investment Research	Corporate Services	FOLK PTY LTD	A need to clearly identify and communicate a new programme initiative undertaken by the Australian Government and to replace out of date Nation Building road signage.	Provision of market research, logos and tag lines, final report development for the Building Our Future programme.	The contract contributes towards Outcome 1: improved infrastructure across Australia through investment in and coordination of transport and other infrastructure. The Building Our Future logo and branding was created to clearly identify and communicate the Australian Government's commitments of \$50 billion for current and future investments of which \$43.9 billion is in the Infrastructure Investment Programme.
Vehicle Safety Standards Vehicle Import Solution	Corporate Services	HAMMOND STREET DEVELOPMENTS PTY LTD	The Department requires specialist skills to assist in replacing its core legacy vehicle import systems with current and supported solutions.	Application development services including delivery of an external client portal and internal customer relationship management system. Includes design, configuration, testing, integration and deployment into Departments environment, warranty support and full solution documentation.	The solution will support the regulation of the importation of road vehicles into Australia in accordance with the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989. It contributes to Outcome 2 - an efficient, sustainable, competitive, safe and secure transport system for all transport users through regulation, financial assistance and safety investigation.
Departmental Labour Hire	Infrastructure Investment	HAYS SPECIALIST RECRUITMENT (AUST)	A vacancy was advertised internally with no suitable applicant found. Due to external recruitment constraints, a contractor was required to fill this position and was sourced through a Recruitment panel.	A contractor was engaged to assist in the implementation of the National Stronger Regions Fund programme.	The contract contributes to Outcome 3: strengthening the sustainability, capacity and diversity of regional economies including through facilitating local partnerships between all levels of government and local communities; and providing grants and financial assistance. The National Stronger Regions Fund was announced as part of the 2014-15 Federal Budget to provide \$1 billion over five years from 2015-16.

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>The reason for commissioning the contract</b>	<b>Scope of the contract</b>	<b>How the contract helps achieve portfolio Outcomes</b>
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) - Assessment 2015	Aviation and Airports	INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO)	This is Australia's annual membership contribution to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) as per ICAO State Letter 2014/88. This payment has been budgeted for in the Portfolio Budget Statement 2014/2015 under 'Annual Administered Expense', section 2.4.	Australia's annual contribution to ICAO is an essential element of fulfilling our obligations under the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) and is required to maintain our membership of the UN specialised body for aviation.	This is directly related to supporting the continued alignment of Australia's aviation framework with international practice through active membership of the ICAO and bilateral cooperation. The membership contributes towards Outcome 2: An efficient, sustainable, competitive, safe and secure transport system for all transport users through regulation, financial assistance and safety investigations.
National Stronger Regions Fund External Assessment Services	Infrastructure Investment	MCGRATH NICOL ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP	A supplier was engaged to complement the existing expertise and skills of departmental officers during assessment of Applications for Rounds 1 and 2 of the National Stronger Regions Fund.	Develop a framework for the assessment of grant applications for the National Stronger Regions Fund Programme.	The contract contributes to Outcome 3: strengthening the sustainability, capacity and diversity of regional economies including through facilitating local partnerships between all levels of government and local communities; and providing grants and financial assistance. The contracted services allowed the Department to deliver the National Stronger Regions Fund Programme on time and on budget while ensuring that assessments were undertaken consistently and to a high standard.
Media Monitoring Services	Corporate Services	MEDIA MONITORS AUSTRALIA	The Department requires Media Monitoring to monitor the content, frequency and accuracy of media reporting about the programmes that form part of the Department's operations.	Includes monitoring of print, broadcast and digital media outlets for relevant coverage about Departmental programmes and related matters, access to such material via a portal, daily summary and transcription services.	Awareness of contemporary media reports about the Department's programmes provides the means to respond to incorrect media reports and to manage media outputs that aim to increase public awareness of the various programmes. The contract contributes towards all of the Department's outcomes.



**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>The reason for commissioning the contract</b>	<b>Scope of the contract</b>	<b>How the contract helps achieve portfolio Outcomes</b>
Infrastructure Corridor Protection	Infrastructure Australia*	PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	In 2013, at the request of the Minister, the Department presented a paper to the Infrastructure Working Group in relation to the development of a National corridor protection strategy. As a result of this Parsons Brinckerhoff were engaged to investigate and document the potential costs associated with protecting corridors for infrastructure in major cities, as the expertise and resources required to provide these services is not currently available within the Department. At the time of engagement, Infrastructure Australia was part of the Department.	Investigation and documentation of the potential costs associated with protecting corridors for infrastructure in major cities at a number of points in time. The project will also outline the potential benefits of early investment in corridor protection. Outcomes of the investigation and analysis will then be consolidated into a report which will inform Council of Australian Government discussions.	The report on infrastructure corridor protection contributes to Outcome 1: improved infrastructure across Australia through investment in and coordination of transport and other infrastructure.
WestConnex Financing Advice	Infrastructure Investment	PRICEWATERHOUSE-COOPERS PUBLIC SECTOR SERVICES PTY LTD	The commercial skills necessary to structure complex financial arrangements are not found within Government.	To provide commercial and financial advice in relation to the WestConnex concessional loan.	PricewaterhouseCoopers' advice contributes to Outcome 1: Improved infrastructure across Australia through investment in and coordination of transport and other infrastructure.
Sydney Network Analysis	Infrastructure Investment	SGS ECONOMICS AND PLANNING	The contract was commissioned as part of a larger project of transport network analysis. A supplier was required to develop a range of land use scenarios for incorporation into the Network Analysis – Sydney Stage 1.	To develop a range of potential land use, population and employment scenarios for testing as part of the Network Analysis – Sydney Stage 1.	The contract contributes to Outcome 1: improved infrastructure across Australia through investment in and coordination of transport and other infrastructure. This is achieved through Identification and understanding of transport network capacity issues as a result of different land use, population and employment scenarios enhances the analysis of future transport network issues.
Legal Services	Corporate Services	SPARKE HELMORE LAWYERS	Litigation initiated against the Department, necessitating specialist legal skills not available within the Department.	Advice relating to and representation in litigation.	The Department is obliged to respond to litigation relating to its functions and outcomes.
Develop Strategic Outlook in Office of Transport Security	Office of Transport Security	THINKPLACE	THINKPLACE was engaged to provide the Office of Transport Security division with a strategic analysis of the future outlook of transport security. The services were sought to assist in decision making and to align the division's activities with industry and other Government agencies.	The supplier was required to engage in a collaborative process to develop the strategic outlook. This included promoting engagement within the Office of Transport Security and the wider Department, other Government agencies, and key industry forums.	The contract contributes to Outcome 2: an efficient, sustainable, competitive, safe and secure transport system for all transport users through regulation, financial assistance and safety investigations.

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>The reason for commissioning the contract</b>	<b>Scope of the contract</b>	<b>How the contract helps achieve portfolio Outcomes</b>
Project Cost Estimation Review Services	Infrastructure Investment	TURNER & TOWNSEND PTY LTD	Cost estimation and engineering skills are only found to a limited extent within Government.	Reviews of project cost estimates and engineering solutions for the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing project and production of report.	Turner and Townsend's advice contributes to Outcome 1: improved infrastructure across Australia through investment in and coordination of transport and other infrastructure.
Network Analysis - Sydney Stage 1	Infrastructure Investment	VEITCH LISTER CONSULTING PTY LTD	The contract was commissioned as part of a larger project of transport network analysis and to interpret traffic modelling results.	Undertake forecasting (to 2031) and analysis of road and rail network capacity issues in the Greater Sydney area.	The contract contributes to Outcome 1: improved infrastructure across Australia through investment in and coordination of transport and other infrastructure. This is achieved through identification and understanding of transport network capacity issues to improve due diligence when considering project proposals. It also assists in the identification and consideration of potential non-infrastructure solutions to future transport network issues.
Network Analysis - Perth Stage 1	Infrastructure Investment	VEITCH LISTER CONSULTING PTY LTD	The contract was commissioned as part of a larger project of transport network analysis and to interpret traffic modelling results.	Undertake forecasting (to 2031) and analysis of road and rail network capacity issues in Perth.	The contract contributes to Outcome 1: improved infrastructure across Australia through investment in and coordination of transport and other infrastructure. This is achieved through identification and understanding of transport network capacity issues to improve due diligence when considering project proposals. It also assists in the identification and consideration of potential non-infrastructure solutions to future transport network issues.

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

**Question no.: 05**

**Program: N/A**

**Division/Agency: Corporate Services**

**Topic: Departmental rebranding**

**Proof Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

1. Has the department/Agency undergone a name change or any other form of rebranding since the leadership change in September, 2015? If so:
  - a. Please detail why this name change / rebrand were considered necessary and a justified use of departmental funds?
    - i. Please provide a copy of any reports that were commissioned to study the benefits and costs associated with the rebranding.
  - b. Please provide the total cost associated with this rebrand and then break down by amount spent replacing:
    - i. Signage.
    - ii. Stationery (please include details of existing stationery and how it was disposed of).
    - iii. Logos
    - iv. Consultancy
    - v. Any relevant IT changes.
    - vi. Office reconfiguration.
  - c. How was the decision reached to rename and/or rebrand the department?
    - i. Who was involved in reaching this decision? ii. Please provide a copy of any communication (including but not limited to emails, letters, memos, notes etc) from within the department, or between the department and the government regarding the rename/rebranding.
2. Following the changes does the department share any goods/services/accommodation with other departments?
3. What resources/services does the department share with other departments; are there plans to cease sharing the sharing of these resources/services?
4. What were the costs to the department prior to the Machinery of Government changes for these shared resources? What are the estimated costs after the ceasing of shared resource arrangements?

**Answer:**

1. No.
2. Yes. The department provides a number of services to the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) and the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (Industry)
3. ATSB
  - Leased office space and car parks in Canberra, Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide.
  - Administrative services – records and file management, WAN and Voice, Security and mail.
  - There are currently no plans to cease these services.Industry
  - Leased office space and car parks in Canberra.
  - These services will cease in January 2016 as Industry will not need these services after this time.
4. The ATSB costs remained the same as these services were provided prior to the changes. The services ceasing with Industry cost \$65,460 per month.

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**  
**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

**Question no.: 06**

**Program:** N/A

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Staffing – employment of non-Australian citizens

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

I refer you to section 22 (8) of the Public Service Act 1999 which says:

"An Agency Head must not engage, as an APS employee, a person who is not an Australian citizen, unless the Agency Head considers it appropriate to do so."

1. Does the department have guidelines or similar to assist Agency Heads to assess when it is appropriate to hire non-Australian citizens? If no, do individual agencies have their own guidelines? If yes to either:
  1. Please provide a copy.
  2. When did they come into effect?
  3. Can Agency Heads decide to go against the advice? If yes, under what circumstances?
2. Are Agency Heads required to provide a reason to anyone for hiring non-Australian citizens? If yes:
  1. Who are they required to report the reason to?
  2. Does this reporting happen before or after the hire has been made?
  3. Is this reason provided in writing? If no, how is it provided?
  4. Can you please provide a list of reasons that have been used since the Federal election in September, 2013.
3. Are there any provisions to over-rule a Head of Agency's decision to hire a non-Australian citizen? If yes:
  1. Who can over-rule this decision?
  2. Under what circumstances can it be over-ruled?
  3. How many times has this occurred since the Federal election in September, 2013.

**Answer:**

1. No.
  1. N/A
  2. N/A
  3. N/A
2. Yes.
  1. They are required to report to Australian Government Security Vetting Agency (AGSVA)
  2. This reporting would happen before the hire has been made.
  3. Yes, the reason would need to be provided via a Business Case to AGSVA to conduct a security check.
  4. N/A

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

3. Yes
  1. AGSVA
  2. Security concerns
  3. Nil for this department.

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**  
**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

**Question no.: 07**

**Program:** N/A

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Ministerial stationery

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

Since the leadership change in September 2015, how much has been spent by the Ministerial office on personalised stationery for the Minister and the Minister's staff? Please provide a cost breakdown by type of stationery purchased and the quantity of each and whether it was for the Minister or for staff.

**Answer:**

The Ministerial office did not spend any money on personalised stationery.

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**  
**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

**Question no.: 08**

**Program:** N/A

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Ministerial Functions and Receptions

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Bilyk asked:**

In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by current or former Ministers in the portfolio in 2015, can the following please be provided:

- List of functions;
- List of attendees including departmental officials and members of the Minister's family or personal staff;
- Function venue;
- Itemised list of costs;
- Details of any food served;
- Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and
- Details of any entertainment provided.

**Answer:**

The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development has not funded any function or official reception held by any current or former Minister in the portfolio in 2015.

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**  
**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

**Question no.:** 09

**Program:** N/A

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Ministerial International Travel

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Bilyk asked:**

In relation to any international travel undertaken in 2015 by current or former Ministers in the portfolio, can the following please be provided to the Senate:

- A copy of the itinerary for each overseas trip;
- An itemised list of the costs of each trip including the class of travel for any flights;
- Copies of receipts for any food or beverages that the Minister consumed at taxpayer expense during each trip;
- Copies of receipts for any self-drive hire cars or chauffeured services utilised by the Minister during each trip;
- Copies of receipts for any other ground transport;
- Copies of receipts for any hotel accommodation; and
- Details of any spouse travel.

**Answer:**

Below is a summary of the international travel undertaken in 2015 by current or former Ministers in the portfolio.

<b>Ministers</b>	<b>Visits</b>	<b>Dates</b>
The Hon Warren Truss MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development	Participated in the 2015 International Transport Forum Annual Summit in Leipzig ( <b>Germany</b> ).	25-30 May
	Participated in the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Intelligent Transport Systems World Congress in Bordeaux ( <b>France</b> ) and 9th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Transportation Ministerial Meeting in Cebu ( <b>Philippines</b> ).	3-10 October
	Participated in the 25th World Road Congress and delivered a keynote address at the Co-investment Roundtable of Sovereign and Pension Funds Annual Summit in Seoul ( <b>Republic of Korea</b> ).	1-5 November
The Hon Michael McCormack MP, Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister	Participated in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety in Brasilia ( <b>Brazil</b> ).	14-21 November
<b>Ministers</b>	<b>Visits</b>	<b>Dates</b>
The Hon Jamie Briggs MP,	Participated in the Australia Business Week in	10-16 January



**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

former Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development	<b>India</b> (New Delhi and Mumbai).	
	Met with a number of international financial investors, global ratings agencies and major infrastructure companies and ministerial counterparts in <b>Canada</b> (Toronto and Ottawa) and <b>the United States of America</b> (Chicago and New York) to promote opportunities for infrastructure investment in Australia, share experiences in terms of alternative funding mechanisms and also convey the Australian Government's continued commitment to major infrastructure projects.	2-11 May
	Met with a range of stakeholders in the <b>United States of America</b> (Salem and Los Angeles) to promote opportunities for infrastructure investment in Australia. Participated in the 2015 Canada-Australia Infrastructure Symposium and 2015 Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum in Vancouver ( <b>Canada</b> ).	1-9 July

The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development does not have information about travel costs by ministers as these arrangements are administered by the Department of Finance.

Mrs Lynette Truss accompanied the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Hon Warren Truss MP, to Bordeaux and Cebu (3-10 October) on invitation from ITS Australia.

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**  
**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

**Question no.: 10**

**Program:** N/A

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Secretary's speeches to staff

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Bilyk asked:**

Can a copy of any speeches delivered by the Secretary of the Department at any staff meetings in 2015 please be provided

**Answer:**

The Secretary did not deliver any formal speeches to departmental staff in 2015.

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**  
**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

**Question no.: 11**

**Program:** N/A

**Division/Agency:** Corporate Services

**Topic:** Secretary's Office Upgrades

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:**

Have the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office been upgraded in 2015? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided?

**Answer:**

There have been no upgrades made to the Secretary's office in 2015.

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

**Question no.: 12**

**Program: N/A**

**Division/Agency: Corporate Services**

**Topic: Visit to Torres Strait**

**Proof Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:**

Did any of the former or current Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries/Assistant Ministers in the portfolio, their personal staff or the Department participate in the former Prime Minister's trip to the Torres Strait?

If so-

What was the duration of the visit to Torres Strait?

Which locations did the Minister/his Department travel to?

Which communities did the Minister/his Department engage with?

What type of activities did they undertake?

What were the outcomes of the trip?

Was an official report or communique or similar published in relation to the trip?

Are you able to please provide an itinerary for the A Minister/his Department's trip?

Which hotel or hotels did the Minister/his Department stay in?

Could you please provide an itemised cost breakdown in relation to the Minister/his Department's involvement in this trip? This should be broken down into categories such as accommodation, ground transport, meals, incidentals etc.

How many members of the Minister's staff participated in the trip?

Could you please advise the number of staff, their title and staffing classification under the MOPS Enterprise Agreement?

In terms of departmental officials from the Department, could you please advise the names and roles of each departmental official in attendance?

Could you also please provide an itemised list of costs for departmental officials in terms of flights, accommodation, ground transport, meals and other incidentals? This should specify the officials which travelled in business class and those that travelled in economy, the hotels they stayed in and which businesses supplied ground transport.

**Answer:**

No.