

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates 8-11 February 2010

Question: PM58a-b

Topic: Transport regulations - A truly national transport system

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010

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- a) With regard to Government's 'A truly national transport system', why did the Governments not agree to a host national regulator at the recent COAG meeting when 3 states, NSW, VIC, QLD had offered to host it? Why has COAG delayed making a decision on this matter until "the first half of 2010"?
- b) Please explain why the National Partnership Agreement that would define the national rail safety regulators powers and roles will not be considered until 2010 and 2011?

Answer:

- a) At its meeting on 7 December 2009 COAG agreed that South Australia would host the national rail safety regulator. This follows COAG's agreement in July that the Australian Maritime Safety Authority would be the national regulator for maritime safety. While COAG did not decide in December on a host national regulator for heavy vehicles, the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government announced on 25 February 2010 that the regulator will be based in Queensland.
- b) COAG agreed the National Partnership Agreement for the single national rail regulator will be considered in 2011. Further information on the Agreement should be sought from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, which has responsibility for this National Partnership.