

Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Estimates October 2010

Infrastructure and Transport

Question No.: MCU 01

Division/Agency: Major Cities Unit

Topic: Major Cities Unit Consultancies

Hansard Page/s: 17 (21/10/10)

Senator Macdonald asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Has any money been spent on consultancies by the Major Cities Unit?

Mr Mrdak—I believe so, yes, in relation to some of the work that has been done. I do not have that information with me.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Could you let me have on notice a list of any consultancies that have been commissioned by your unit?

Mr Mrdak—Certainly.

Answer:

The following consultancy has been commissioned by the Major Cities Unit:

- Melbourne City Council for contribution to an Australian Urban Design Protocol, \$5,500.00.

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Question No.: MCU 02

Division/Agency: Major Cities Unit

Topic: Major Cities Unit's Budget Allocations

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Heffernan asked:

- 1) What are the budget allocations to the Major Cities Unit to 2013-14?
- 2) How many staff are employed within the Major Cities unit?
- 3) How much has been spent on consultancies by the Major Cities unit?
- 4) What have been the tangible outcomes from the cities unit to date?
- 5) Does Infrastructure Australia consider the Major Cities Unit to be adequately staffed and funded to develop a comprehensive plan for the infrastructure needs of our major cities?
- 6) Has the Department committed to a Major Cities Program as outlined by Rudd in December 2006?
- 7) If so, what has been the cost to date of the Major Cities Program?
- 8) If not, when will the program commence?
- 9) What are the projected costs of the program to 2013-14?
- 10) Is Infrastructure Australia aware of any project slippages, cost overruns and project delivery issues surrounding the Major Cities Program?
- 11) How has the work or recommendations of the Major Cities Unit been linked to infrastructure assessments of Infrastructure Australia and its recommendations to COAG?

Answer:

- 1) The Major Cities Unit has a budget allocation of \$1.125 million in 2010-11 and \$1.5 million per year from 2011-12 to 2013-14.
- 2) Four ongoing and two non-ongoing staff are employed within the Major Cities Unit.
- 3) \$5,500 (GST inclusive) was spent by the Major Cities Unit on consultancies that were active in 2009-10.
- 4) The *State of Australian Cities 2010* report was released in March 2010 and the draft National Urban Policy Discussion Paper was released in December 2010. In addition a new Data Series on population growth, jobs growth and commuting flows in capital cities has been established with the first report on Perth released in September 2010.
- 5) This question seeks an opinion and it would not be appropriate for Infrastructure Australia to comment.
- 6) The Federal Government is re-engaging in urban infrastructure in our major cities.
 - From 1 January 2012, states will have in place capital city strategic plans, and Commonwealth funding will be linked to these plans.
 - Investments have been made in productive infrastructure, including around \$18 billion in urban rail and road infrastructure.
 - There is now a major urban rail project in every state capital city on the mainland:
 - o Noarlunga to Seaford rail extension & Gawler Line in Adelaide;

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- The Northbridge Link in Perth;
 - Moreton Bay Rail line in Brisbane;
 - Regional Rail Link in Melbourne;
 - The Parramatta to Epping line in Sydney;
 - As well as the Gold Coast Rapid Transit Project.
- A National Urban Policy is being developed to establish a stronger framework for improving the productivity, sustainability and liveability of our cities. This will be released later in 2011.
- 7) Refer to part 6
- 8) Refer to part 6
- 9) Refer to part 6
- 10) These issues are the responsibility of the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.
- 11) The Major Cities Unit has provided input to the work of Infrastructure Australia.