

Department of Infrastructure and Transport

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing
Opening Statement
21 October 2010

Thank you, Chair; with your agreement, I would like to make some opening comments.

These will provide some context information for today's hearing particularly in relation to the recent machinery of government decisions that impact on the Department.

Machinery of government decisions and implications

The machinery of government decisions which took effect on 14 September 2010 have had a significant impact on the Department.

The Department's ~~name has changed~~^{it's now} to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport. This is in recognition of the transfer of regional development and local government functions to the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government.

With these changes, the primary responsibilities set out in the Administrative Arrangements Orders for the Department include infrastructure planning and co-ordination, transport safety, land transport, civil aviation and airports, transport security, maritime transport, and the facilitation and implementation of all non-Defence major development projects.

The role of the Office of the Coordinator General will also soon transfer to the Department from the Prime Minister's portfolio. The Office staff will also relocate to this Department ~~shortly~~^{next week}.

On 30 September 178 former employees, including 6 SES officers, of the Department transferred to the new Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government. We have put in place arrangements to facilitate the establishment of the new Department and will continue to provide shared services to the new Department, particularly in relation to accommodation, finance and HR systems support.

^{my}
The Department's organisation structure has been amended to reflect the transfer of the former Local Government and Regional Development Division and the Office of Northern Australia and a number of corporate support staff to the new Department.

Thank you Chair.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Supplementary budget estimates 2010-2011
DEPT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Tabled document no: 1

By: Mr Mike Mrdak, Secretary,
Dept. Infrastructure + Transport

Date: 21 October 2010