

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

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Transport and Regional Services**

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Additional Budget Estimates February 2005

**Question No.:** PR 01

**Topic:** Treasury Review of Infrastructure Facilities at Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal

**Hansard Page:** p. 17 (Monday, 14/2/05)

**Output:** Policy and Research Group

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Is there a linkage of the Treasury review of these two terminals back to the broader issues identified by industry, which your Department is providing input into?

**Answer:**

Response is yet to be submitted.

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

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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Department of Transport and Regional Services

Consideration of Additional Budget Estimates February 2005

**Question No.:** PR 02

**Topic:** Contact with European and UK Governments Regarding Access Arrangements.

**Hansard Page:** p. 24 (Monday, 14/2/05)

**Output:** Policy and Research Group

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Can you advise on how many occasions the Department, or other Agencies you are working with, have had contact with the UK and European Governments regarding access arrangements?

**Answer:**

Over the last two years, the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOATRS) has had face-to-face discussions with officials of European Governments on access arrangements as follows: Poland (March 2003), Austria (October 2003), the United Kingdom (May 2004) and Belgium (October 2003). There has also been contact with The Netherlands (June-September 2004) and Malta (March-December 2003).

In addition, there have been three face-to-face meetings with officials of the European Commission (in October 2003, August and December 2004) about access arrangements.

There are related ongoing instances of e-mail, written correspondence, fax or telephone contact with these Governments and the European Commission.

As the DOTARS has prime carriage of Australia's aviation arrangements with other countries, other Agencies would not usually have made contact on access arrangements other than through us.

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Consideration of Additional Budget Estimates February 2005

**Question No.:** PR 03

**Topic:** Prime Minister's Visit to Singapore

**Hansard Page:** p.26 (Monday (14/2/05))

**Output:** Policy and Research Group

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Did the request come from DFAT or PM & C?

**Answer:**

A briefing request to contribute to advice the Prime Minister for his visit to Singapore was received by DOTARS from both the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

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Consideration of Additional Budget Estimates February 2005

**Question No.:** PR 04

**Topic:** Logistics Centre of Excellence

**Hansard Page:** p.28 (14/2/05)

**Output:** Policy and Research Group

**Senator Bishop asked:**

How many staff does it have or will it have?

**Answer:**

As at 9 March 2005, the Transport and Logistics Centre has three people engaged on twelve/eighteen month rotation secondments, three people on part-time fixed contracts and a temporary support person.

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Consideration of Additional Budget Estimates February 2005

**Question No.:** PR 05

**Topic:** Australian Trucking Association Report

**Hansard Page:** p.32 (Monday, 14/2/05)

**Output:** Policy & Research Group

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Could you provide the Committee with a copy of that Report?

**Answer:**

A copy of the KPMG Report, *The Effective Life of Trucks*, commissioned by the Australian Trucking Association (ATA), is **attached**. The Report is also publicly-available on the ATA website or from its Office.

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Consideration of Additional Budget Estimates February 2005

**Question No.:** PR 06

**Topic:** *Regional Aviation and Island Transport Services: Making Ends Meet Report*

**Hansard Page:** p.36 (Monday, 14/2/05)

**Output:** Policy and Research Group

**Senator Mark Bishop asked:**

How many times has the draft response been reviewed?

**Answer:**

Two draft responses have been provided to the Minister's Office for review. Both have been returned to the Department for update following major funding announcements. It remains under review.

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**Question No.:** PR 07

**Topic:** Independent Review of Australian Shipping

**Hansard Page:** p.40 (Monday, 14/2/05)

**Output:** Policy & Research Group

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Could you give us a web location of the new Guidelines?

**Answer:**

The web address for the *Ministerial Guidelines for Granting Licences and Permits to Engage in Australia's Domestic Shipping Trade* is

[http://www.dotars.gov.au/transreg/str\\_svp\\_guidelines.htm](http://www.dotars.gov.au/transreg/str_svp_guidelines.htm)

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

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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Consideration of Additional Budget Estimates February 2005

**Question No.:** PR 08

**Topic:** Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) \$450m Investment Programme

**Hansard Page:** p. 40 (Monday, 14/2/05)

**Output:** Policy & Research Group

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Did they provide you with an expenditure profile once they had received the funds? Was that agreed beforehand?

**Mr Mrdak**—It was provided as an untied grant with the Government wishing it to be applied to certain funds. We then sought a project list from the ARTC in relation to where they would do that. As Mr Wolfe indicated, they have a massive capital works program now underway for New South Wales rail track. They have provided us with details of where that expenditure will take place and that has been managed through that.

**Mr Wolfe**—The ARTC has just put out a Report called the *North-South Corridor Strategy* about its intentions on that particular corridor. It would certainly help the Committee if we provide you with a copy of that.

**Answer:**

**Attached** is a copy of the ARTC's North-South and Hunter Valley Corridor Strategies which outline its investment plans in these key corridors. These strategies may also be found on the ARTC website <http://www.artc.com.au/news/latest.htm> which will reflect any updating as it occurs.

PR 08 Attachments:

Attachment A – “*Hunter Valley Corridor Strategy*” - 22 – 23 pages

Attachment B – “*ARTC North-South Corridor Strategy*” - 25 pages



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Consideration of Additional Budget Estimates February 2005

**Question No.:** PR 09

**Topic:** Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) \$450m Investment Programme

**Hansard Page:** p.41 (Monday, 14/2/05)

**Output:** Policy & Research Group

**Senator Bishop asked:**

The Commonwealth has provided the funding to the entity; the entity is established; it has developed its work program; and you have an expenditure profile in terms of what it is doing. Can you make that available to the Committee?

**Answer:**

ARTC has developed draft investment strategies for the North – South Corridor and Hunter Valley which have been provided to the Committee as part of the answer to question **PR 08**. A detailed plan of works to implement that strategy is currently being completed for consideration by the ARTC Board and will be provided to the Committee as soon as it is available.

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Consideration of Additional Budget Estimates February 2005

**Question No.:** PR 10

**Topic:** Pacific National and the Eastern Seaboard Rail Meetings

**Hansard Page:** p.41 (Monday, 14/2/05)

**Output:** Policy & Research Group

**Senator Bishop asked:**

Could I ask you on notice to provide the minutes of those meetings to the Committee.  
You can take advice on that.

**Answer:**

These meetings are not minuted. They are informal discussions held between officials from Pacific National and the Department of Transport and Regional Services.