

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 113

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: WestConnex

Proof Hansard Page: 14 (24/02/2014)

Senator Rhiannon asked:

Senator RHIANNON: Moving on to WestConnex, can you confirm that the document *West Sydney's Next Motorway Priority*, dated October 2012, that was tabled in the Senate on 23 December last year in response to an order for the production of documents is the only document that has been received by Infrastructure Australia in relation to the WestConnex project?

Mr Brennan: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

Two documents were provided by Infrastructure Australia to the Senate in response to the order:

- WestConnex – Sydney's next motorway priority, dated October 2012; and
- NSW Government submission for Nation Building 2 Funding, Westconnex Stages 1 to 6, dated October 2012 which also included WestConnex – Sydney's next motorway priority, dated October 2012.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 114

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: WestConnex

Proof Hansard Page: 14 (24/02/2014)

Senator Rhiannon asked:

Senator RHIANNON: ... Has Infrastructure completed its own economic analysis in terms of the cost-benefit ratio of WestConnex, or do you rely entirely on those figures presented to the New South Wales government submission?

Mr Brennan: Our process is to analyse the cost-benefit analysis that the project sponsor provides to us, so we engage analysts to test the assumptions and the parameters that are used in cost-benefit analyses to give ourselves confidence that the cost-benefit analysis is robust.

Senator RHIANNON: Does that mean that you have tested their cost-benefit ratio which comes in at 1.5 to 1—is that what you have done?

Mr Brennan: My understanding is that we have not received a detailed cost-benefit analysis on the WestConnex project, but I will take that on notice to confirm that is the case.

Senator RHIANNON: Do you know if that ratio, the 1.5 to 1, is based on wider economic benefits or not?

Mr Brennan: I don't know, Senator.

Senator RHIANNON: Do you mean that you were not provided that by the New South Wales government or you need to take it on notice?

Mr Brennan: I need to take that on notice and see what we have been provided with.

Senator RHIANNON: Thank you. Do you have any information from the New South Wales government pertaining to the modelling of the benefit-cost ratio?

Mr Brennan: I will take that on notice, senator.

Answer:

Infrastructure Australia has not received a detailed cost-benefit analysis on the WestConnex project.

The NSW October 2012 submission on the WestConnex project states that: “The economic assessment only includes direct transport user benefits and costs from the scheme and does not capture any positive externality benefits generated by the project”.

The NSW October 2012 submission states that “WestConnex has a preliminary strategic BCR of greater than 1.5”. The NSW Government has subsequently advised that, since that time, further business case development work on the WestConnex scheme has been undertaken, resulting in significant changes to the scheme. Infrastructure Australia has not received any information on this work to date.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 115

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: WestConnex

Proof Hansard Page: 14 (24/02/2014)

Senator Rhiannon asked:

Senator RHIANNON: Thank you. What is the difference between the methodology and the stock-standard methodology used to arrive at the lower figure? If I could ask it in a more general sense: could you outline the methodology that is used here to arrive at this cost-benefit analysis?

Mr Brennan: It is a very technical process. We bring in skilled economists to test the analysis that is provided. I would not like to hold out to the Senate that I could outline the technical details but, in general terms, it is the direct cost and benefits of the project that apply to users of the project and people who are directly impacted by the project; whereas the wider economic benefits tend to relate, as the name suggests, broader economic costs and benefits that are associated, but not directly associated, with the project.

Senator RHIANNON: Are you confident that the New South Wales government and the Victorian government follow that methodology when they are preparing their cases for these respective motorways?

Mr Brennan: I could only be confident if I had underlying information which formed the basis for their calculations, and we do not have that.

Senator RHIANNON: You do not have it in the case of WestConnex or East-West?

Mr Brennan: I am not sure about WestConnex. I am confident about East West.

Senator RHIANNON: So can you take it on notice about WestConnex?

Mr Brennan: Yes.

Answer:

No.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 116

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Advice Sought from the Commonwealth Government

Proof Hansard Pages: 14-15 (24/02/2014)

Senator Rhiannon asked:

Senator RHIANNON: ... Since the last Senate estimates, has the federal government sought Infrastructure Australia's advice on either the East West Link or WestConnex?

Mr Brennan: The Commonwealth government?

Senator RHIANNON: Yes, please.

Mr Brennan: Not to my knowledge, although I will take that on notice as well.

Senator RHIANNON: If they have sought information from Infrastructure Australia, has that been since Mr Deegan took leave in February this year? So I am looking for a date on seeking that advice.

Mr Brennan: I am not sure whether we have received it, so I will take that on notice as well.

Answer:

No.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 117

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Analysis of Traffic Projections provided by AECOM

Proof Hansard Page: 15 (24/02/2014)

Senator Rhiannon asked:

Senator RHIANNON: ... Coming back to this issue about the traffic projections, there is a company called AECOM. So, as AECOM is undertaking traffic projection figures for WestConnex, it is facing legal action over flawed traffic projections for Brisbane's Clem7 motorway. Does Infrastructure Australia have any concerns about the traffic projections that have been put forward for WestConnex?

Mr Brennan: We would only be able to determine whether we do have concerns if we saw the information that they had produced.

Senator RHIANNON: And that is what you going to take on notice to determine—if you have been provided with it. Could you take this on notice: has there been any independent analysis undertaken by Infrastructure Australia of any traffic projections provided by AECOM?

Mr Brennan: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

No.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 118

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: IA Budget – Travel, Office and Staff Costs

Proof Hansard Page: 16 (24/02/2014)

Chair asked:

CHAIR: ... How much of the IA budget was used on travel, office and staff costs to the end of 2013?

Mr Mrdak: I do not have that information.

Mr Brennan: I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

Financial year 2012/13:

Travel: \$603,437

Office: \$65,976

Staff: \$1,918,792

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 119

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: IA Budget Consultancies

Proof Hansard Page: 17 (24/02/2014)

Chair asked:

CHAIR: How much of the budget was used on consultancies to the end of 2013?

Mr Brennan: I will have to get back to you on the detail on budgets.

Answer:

Nil.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 120

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Approval of Travel

Proof Hansard Page: 17 (24/02/2014)

Chair asked:

CHAIR: ... Who approves travel by members of Infrastructure Australia, particularly international travel?

Mr Brennan: The offices of Infrastructure Australia—so in the office of the infrastructure coordinator, the infrastructure coordinator approves that travel.

CHAIR: And that happens to be you?

Mr Brennan: I am acting in that position.

CHAIR: It happened to be Mr Deegan.

Mr Brennan: That is right.

CHAIR: So, he would have ticked off all international travel?

Mr Brennan: That is right.

CHAIR: Including his own?

Mr Brennan: I am not sure about his own.

CHAIR: Will you take that on notice?

Mr Brennan: Yes.

CHAIR: If he doesn't, then who does? Who do you think?

Mr Mrdak: My understanding is that under the arrangements with the former government, approval of travel by the infrastructure coordinator was undertaken by the former minister.

CHAIR: We had better get that confirmed...

Answer:

Approval for international travel by the Infrastructure Coordinator was undertaken by the former Minister for Infrastructure and Transport.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 121

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Travel Expenses

Proof Hansard Page: 17 (24/02/2014)

Chair asked:

CHAIR: ... we might get the amount that was spent on international travel approved by the minister for the coordinator.

Mr Mrdak: Certainly.

CHAIR: So that would be for the last two years.

Mr Mrdak: We can go back to whatever period you would like; we will chase that information. If you would like it for the last two financial years, we could get that.

Senator EDWARDS: It is properly better to go to three years so that we can capture the cycle.

CHAIR: We can tidy it up and go for three.

Senator EDWARDS: The detail of what those trips were for and the destinations that were visited—and, if there is a report from those tours, could you table them. If there is not a report, just indicate that.

Mr Mrdak: Yes.

CHAIR: The question on notice is: can you provide a list of travel—domestic and international—including accommodation expenses of all members of Infrastructure Australia, including the coordinator.

Answer:

2011-12

Domestic Flights = \$342,676

Domestic Accommodation = \$91,337

International Flights = \$137,076

International Accommodation = \$24,894

2012-13

Domestic Flights = \$295,229

Domestic Accommodation = \$82,509

International Flights = \$108,326

International Accommodation = \$36,916

2013-14 (as at 28 Feb 2014)

Domestic Flights = \$98,854

Domestic Accommodation = \$16,309

International Flights = \$44,907

International Accommodation = \$6,608

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 122

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Credit Cards

Proof Hansard Page: 18 (24/02/2014)

Chair asked:

CHAIR: ... are any members of Infrastructure Australia issued with credit cards by the department?

Mr Brennan: Yes.

...

Mr Brennan: ... There are currently 12 officers in Infrastructure Australia and certainly the senior executives have credit cards, and some of the administrative officers also have credit cards.

CHAIR: So, to the best of your knowledge, has anyone ever had to repay because of a mistake in what they charged on the card?

Mr Brennan: Not to my knowledge.

CHAIR: You will take that on notice?

Mr Brennan: Yes.

Answer:

There have been instances that staff have had to reimburse the Department for transactions on their credit card.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 123

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Travel Budget and Guidelines

Proof Hansard Page: 18 (24/02/2014)

Chair asked:

CHAIR: What is the annual travel budget for Infrastructure Australia?

Mr Brennan: I will have to take that on notice.

CHAIR: Are there guidelines for travel, particularly overseas travel?

Mr Brennan: There are.

CHAIR: Can you table those?

Mr Brennan: We certainly can.

Answer:

1. The 2013-14 travel budget for Infrastructure Australia is \$406,447
2. The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development has a Chief Executive Instruction on Travel – see attached.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 124

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Costings of Congestion to Economy in Major Cities

Proof Hansard Page: 22 (24/02/2014)

Senator Sterle asked:

Senator STERLE: Has Infrastructure Australia done any costings on the cost of congestion to our economy in our major cities?

Mr Brennan: We have relied heavily on the research that has been done by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics in the department. We think that research is robust and we rely quite heavily on it. We have not done any independent research.

Senator STERLE: They are coming later and we can ask them, but would you be able to table the figures that have been given to you and the research you have used?

Mr Brennan: Yes

Answer:

See attached paper: Estimating urban traffic congestion cost trends for Australian cities, Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics, Working Paper No 71.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 125

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Contract with ACIL Allen

Proof Hansard Page: 24 (24/02/2014)

Senator Conroy asked:

Senator CONROY: What is the duration of that contract with ACIL Allen?

Mr Brennan: It runs to the end of this calendar year.

Senator CONROY: Has the minister or his office spoken to IA about this contract?

Mr Brennan: I am not aware.

Senator CONROY: Could you take that on notice?

Mr Brennan: I can.

Answer:

No.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 126

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Infrastructure Audit of Northern Australia

Proof Hansard Page: 24 (24/02/2014)

Senator Conroy asked:

Senator CONROY: ... I refer to IA's announcement that it has engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers in partnership with GHD to audit infrastructure in northern Australia. Can you explain the reason for calling this tender?

Mr Brennan: It is the same reason for the national audit. The minister and the Deputy Prime Minister requested us to proceed apace with the audit of northern Australia to feed into the government's white paper process.

Senator CONROY: What is the duration of that contract?

Mr Brennan: It is a similar time frame, I think, but I can take that on notice.

Senator CONROY: Has the minister or his office spoken to IA about that contract?

Mr Brennan: Not that I am aware. I will take that on notice.

Answer:

1. The duration of the contract is until 30 June 2014.
2. No.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 127

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Westlink Proposals

Proof Hansard Pages: 27-28 (24/02/2014)

Senator Conroy asked:

Senator CONROY: How many different submissions or packages has IA received?

Mr Brennan: We received initially a proposal for what was called Westlink back in 2010. We received another submission in 2011. The Victorian government subsequently submitted the East West Link, which was substantially the Westlink as well as the eastern part.

Senator CONROY: Okay. This is perhaps a confusion of the name of the description of the proposals. Could you take us through the chronology. The Victorian government started off by providing Westlink?

Mr Brennan: That is right.

Senator CONROY: How many pages was Westlink?

Mr Brennan: I would have to take that on notice.

...

Senator CONROY: When in 2013 did you receive the third iteration?

Mr Brennan: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator CONROY: Roughly? I will not hold you to the exact date? The middle of the year?

Mr Brennan: Midyear.

Senator CONROY: If you could come back with a date, that would be great, but mid-2013. How many pages was that?

Mr Brennan: That is the one I am thinking of.

Senator CONROY: That is the 40 pager you are talking about. You have seen the early ones from 2012 and 2010-11?

Mr Brennan: Yes.

Senator CONROY: Were they as detailed?

Mr Brennan: My memory is not that reliable.

Senator CONROY: If you could take on notice how many pages the 2012 and 2010 ones were so we can make sure we are on the same page.

Mr Brennan: Okay.

Answer:

A submission was received by Infrastructure Australia from the Victorian government on the WestLink project in October 2009 of approximately 75 pages in length.

A submission was received by Infrastructure Australia from the Victorian government on the East West Link project in November 2011 of approximately 25 pages in length.

A submission was received by Infrastructure Australia from the Victorian government on the East West Link project in August 2012 of approximately 30 pages in length.

A submission was received by Infrastructure Australia from the Victorian government on the East West Link Stage One project in June 2013 of approximately 70 pages for the submission and 40 pages for the business case

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 128

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Australian Rural Roads Group

Proof Hansard Page: 28 (24/02/2014)

Senator Conroy asked:

Senator CONROY: Has Infrastructure Australia had any interactions with the department around the work of the Australian Rural Roads Group?

Mr Brennan: I am not sure.

Senator CONROY: Could you take on notice if you have and, if you have, the nature of the interaction and who was involved?

Mr Brennan: Yes.

Answer:

Yes. Infrastructure Australia has provided information about the work of the Australian Rural Roads Group, and of its joint work with the Group, to the Department. The National Infrastructure Coordinator was involved.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 129

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Pilbara Integrated Power Solution

Proof Hansard Page: 30 (24/02/2014)

Senator Conroy asked:

Senator CONROY: ... Can Infrastructure Australia confirm that the Pilbara integrated power solution was submitted for consideration by the Western Australian government in 2008?

Mr Brennan: I would have to take that on notice. We have certainly received submissions about a network to connect operations in the Pilbara. I cannot recall who submitted it and when.

Senator CONROY: I would ask you to take that on notice and come back to us. And can you confirm that this submission was consequently withdrawn by the Western Australian government?

Mr Brennan: I will take that on notice, too.

Senator CONROY: Could you also take on notice when was the submission withdrawn, and can Infrastructure Australia confirm that an application in respect of the same project was launched by a private sector entity?

Mr Brennan: I will take that on notice.

Senator CONROY: And what action was taken by Infrastructure Australia on that application?

Mr Brennan: I will take that on notice.

Senator CONROY: What assessment was made by Infrastructure Australia with respect to that application?

Mr Brennan: I will take that on notice.

Senator CONROY: Can Infrastructure Australia release all documents related to its actions and assessments taken in relation to the Pilbara integrated power solution project?

Mr Brennan: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The Western Australian government has not submitted the Pilbara integrated power solution project to Infrastructure Australia.

Worley Parsons submitted the Pilbara Integrated Power Solution project to Infrastructure Australia in 2008. The project was included at Table 5: Projects for further analysis list contained in Infrastructure Australia's December 2008 Report to the Council of Australian Governments. The project was not included on the May 2009 Infrastructure Priority list.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 130

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Infrastructure Australia's Submission to the Senate Inquiry

Proof Hansard Page: 31 (24/02/2014)

Senator O'Sullivan asked:

Senator O'SULLIVAN: In relation to the recent Senate inquiry into the Infrastructure Australia Amendment Bill, could you advise the committee if Infrastructure Australia's submission to the inquiry was approved by the IA board?

Mr Mrdak: The Infrastructure Coordinator's submission is under his letterhead. I do not have any knowledge of whether or not it was approved by the Infrastructure Australia council. I do not know if Mr Brennan has more information.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Mr Brennan, are you able to shed any light on this?

Mr Brennan: I would have to take that on notice. I am not aware whether or not it was approved by the council.

Answer:

The submission was provided by the Infrastructure Coordinator, following an invitation from the Secretary to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee. It was not a submission from the Infrastructure Australia Council.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 131

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Infrastructure Australia's Submission to the Senate Inquiry

Proof Hansard Page: 31 (24/02/2014)

Senator O'Sullivan asked:

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Who was the responsible author of the Senate submission?

Ms O'Connell: It would have been the Infrastructure Coordinator.

Mr Mrdak: Mr Deegan.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Would it be fair to assume that that was a collaborative work by people within the coordinator's staff and executive.

Mr Brennan: That is right.

Senator EDWARDS: Who else would have contributed to that submission?

Mr Brennan: I am not aware of who contributed, but I know that the intention to make a submission was certainly known amongst the senior executive officers.

Senator EDWARDS: Will you let us know on notice?

Mr Brennan: Yes.

Answer:

The submission was made by the Infrastructure Coordinator, who was assisted by the Office of the Infrastructure Coordinator.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 132

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Regional Development Australia Fund – Round 5

Proof Hansard Page: 32 (24/02/2014)

Senator O’Sullivan asked:

Senator O’SULLIVAN: Can you also update the committee on what measures have been undertaken on the former government's Regional Development Australia Fund, and what communications have been provided to the proponents of these projects, where they are not proceeding?

Ms O’Connell: The government has made a commitment to continue with Regional Development Australia Fund projects committed for rounds 2, 3 and 4, but not to continue to fund projects identified in RDAF rounds 5 and 5B. All of the proponents of those rounds have been notified of that government decision.

Senator O’SULLIVAN: In relation to round 5, at any stage has Infrastructure Australia been involved in giving advice to the former government with respect to those projects—the viability, cost-benefit analyses et cetera?

Mr Brennan: I am not aware. I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

No.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 133

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Infrastructure Australia's Submission to the Senate Inquiry

Proof Hansard Page: 33 (24/02/2014)

Senator O'Sullivan asked:

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Mr Brennan, I imagine that at the level you are within Infrastructure Australia there would be executive meetings that occur with some regularity?

Mr Brennan: That is right.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Did the fact that the organisation was making a submission to the Senate make its way onto the agenda of those meetings, from your memory?

Mr Brennan: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: I am asking did you participate in executive meetings where on the agenda there were discussions in relation to the preparation of the Senate submission?

Mr Brennan: Whether the item was on the formal agenda for the meeting, I would have to take that on notice. Certainly, making a submission was discussed at executive meetings.

Answer:

Status updates on the Infrastructure Coordinator's submission were provided at various executive meetings.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 134

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Ministerial Powers – Termination of Infrastructure Australia Members

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Edwards asked:

1. Under current legislation, can a member of Infrastructure Australia be terminated for “misbehaviour”?
2. If so, what is the definition of “misbehaviour”?
3. Has a member of Infrastructure Australia been terminated for “misbehaviour” If so, what was the action that caused the termination?
4. Are there any proposed amendments that change Ministerial powers to dismiss members of Infrastructure Australia? If so, what are they?

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. The Infrastructure Australia Act 2008 (No. 17 2008) does not contain a definition of the word “misbehaviour”.
3. No.
4. Refer to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 135

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Urban Transport Strategy

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

In its Urban Transport Strategy (page 9), Infrastructure Australia says:

A further risk of Australian Government funding ... certain types of infrastructure projects include that states and territories may unduly focus on such projects at the expense of wider perspectives, or without fully considering alternative or smaller projects.

Could IA explain that what is meant by that comment in greater detail?

Answer:

Australian Government funding to an infrastructure project identified by a state government would reduce the financial cost to the state of that project.

Were the Australian Government to fund only certain types of infrastructure projects, those types of projects would become relatively more attractive to the state than other projects.

A limited State budget for infrastructure projects could stretch furthest if it focussed on the types of projects likely to attract Australian Government funding.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 136

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: ACIL Tasman Contract

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

Please provide the scope of the ACIL Tasman contract, and any other extracts from the contract which outline the key tasks to be undertaken.

Answer:

The scope requirements for the National Infrastructure Audit and the development of a project pipeline are:

Audit

1. Identification, collection and evaluation of data (e.g. configuration, service level, usage, etc.) for nationally significant infrastructure assets/networks including:
 - a. Demand and supply projections over a 15 year period to provide for an infrastructure gap analysis;
 - b. Identification of their productivity/economic contribution;
 - c. Identification of their contribution to other state/national goals;
 - d. Management of assets to ensure closure of infrastructure gaps.
2. GIS mapping of current infrastructure asset base.
3. Top down infrastructure gap analysis against future population scenarios.

Project Pipeline

4. Develop a 15 year project pipeline based on national priorities, independent of State and Territory Government project submissions including:
 - a. Using results from the top down gap analysis to identify future infrastructure requirements;
 - b. Integrating projects currently identified on the Infrastructure Australia's Infrastructure Priority List; and
 - c. A systematic review of state infrastructure plans.
5. Identify project timeframes for bringing to market and construction phases, to be sequenced in order of our highest productivity value.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 137

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: PWC/GHD Northern Australia Contract

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

Please provide the scope of this contract, and any other extracts from the contract which outline the key tasks to be undertaken.

Answer:

The scope requirements for the Northern Australia Audit are:

1. Physical audit of critical infrastructure in Northern Australia, including the collection and evaluation of data for critical infrastructure assets/networks.
2. Demographic modelling of Northern Australia against population growth scenarios.
3. Top down critical infrastructure gap analysis against future population scenarios.
4. Produce list of critical infrastructure requirements against population growth scenarios
5. GIS mapping of current Northern Australia infrastructure asset base.
6. Work in conjunction with the Northern Territory Government's review of regional infrastructure.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 138

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Road Funding

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

At page 25 of the transcript of February 24 estimates, Mr Brennan (IA) said on roads funding:

“We are also progressing a number of pilot projects to promote the sorts of efficiency gains that can be achieved through reforms of existing transport arrangements”.

Please outline the specific pilot projects and when they are due to be concluded.

Answer:

The pilot projects that Infrastructure Australia is progressing are:

Chullora; seeking higher mass limits on roads to the rail terminal and remainder of industrial estate. Roads to rail terminal completed. Roads in remainder of industrial estate ongoing.

Hume Highway: seeking trial of high productivity vehicles, jointly with NSW and Victorian Governments. Infrastructure Australia; outline of trial methodology completed. NSW and Victorian Governments; detailed trial development underway.

Roads portfolio manager: seeking asset management reporting for rural local roads, identification of prima facie cases for private investment and then, private investment. Asset management reporting completed. Prima facie cases identified. Private investment in discussion.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates February 2014
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 139

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: East West Link – Stage 2

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. Has a business case been put to Infrastructure Australia for the East-West Link Stage Two? If so, what is the cost estimate for construction of the East-West Link Stage Two?
2. What is the identified problem, solution analysis and BCR in this business case?
3. Is IA aware of any land reservations been made for East-West Link Stage Two? If so, what are the details of these land reservations and where are they located?
4. How much money has been allocated for acquiring this land?
5. Is IA aware of any community consultation taken place for East-West Link Stage Two?
6. Have stakeholders or residents been contacted by the Government on this issue? If so, who has been contacted and what was the method of contact?
7. What meetings have taken place between community groups or residents and Commonwealth Governments on East-West Link Stage Two? If so, what time were these meetings and what was discussed?
8. Is IA aware of any drilling or testing of land taken place for East-West Links Stage Two? If so, what tests have been conducted?
9. At what addresses did these tests take place?
10. What date did these tests take place?
11. What were the results of these tests?
12. Is IA aware of whether a project proposal been submitted by the Linking Melbourne Authority to the Victorian Minister for Planning? If so, what are the details of this project proposal?
13. Is IA aware of whether a Comprehensive Impact Statement been prepared for East-West Link Stage Two by the Linking Melbourne Authority? If not, is a Comprehensive Impact Statement currently being prepared? If so, what are the details of this Comprehensive Impact Statement?

Answer:

Infrastructure Australia has not received a submission from the Victorian government on the East-West Link Stage Two project. Infrastructure Australia is not aware of information about this project other than what is in the public domain.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Budget Estimates February 2014

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 140

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: (IA) Infrastructure Australia

Topic: Infrastructure Australia Budget/Travel

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Edwards asked:

1. How much of the Infrastructure Australia budget was used on travel, office and staff costs to the end of 2013?
2. How much of the Infrastructure Australia budget was used for consultancies to the end of 2013?
3. In terms of travel, who approves travel by members of Infrastructure Australia, particularly international travel?
4. Does the Minister approve international travel for members of Infrastructure Australia, or the department?
5. Are there any guidelines for travel, particularly overseas travel?
6. How is travel by members of Infrastructure Australia reported? And what is the process for reporting outcomes?
7. What is the annual travel budget for Infrastructure Australia members?
8. Can you provide a list of travel, domestic and international (including accommodation expenses) of all members of Infrastructure Australia, including the Infrastructure Australia coordinator?
9. Are any members of Infrastructure Australia issued with credit cards by the department?
If so, who, and can you provide a breakdown of costs for each card?

Answer:

1. Travel: \$603,437
2. Office: \$65,976
3. Staff: \$1,918,792
4. International travel for Infrastructure Australia staff is approved by the Infrastructure Coordinator.
5. The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development has Chief Executive Instructions on Travel.
6. Under the Whole of Government Travel Arrangements the departments travel management company (TMC) provides monthly reports broken down to divisional level on travel expenditure and types. Detailed travel reports are also provided by the TMC to the Department of Finance as a requirement of the WOAG arrangements.
7. \$406,447 (financial year 2012-13)
8. 2012-13 financial year:
Domestic flights \$295,229
Domestic accommodation \$82,509
International flights \$108,326
International accommodation \$36,916
9. Credit cards are issued only where there is a proved business need. The costs associated with these cards relate to official business.