

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2008
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question: BITRE 01

Division/Agency: Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics

Topic: Public Transport Systems in Regional Areas

Hansard Page: 99 (28/05/08)

Senator Nash asked:

Senator NASH—Do you know if any other departments have done any work on that? Given the current situation with high fuel prices and the tyranny of distance, if you like, in regional areas, I would think it would be quite important to ascertain the impact of the lack of any kind of public transport system in regional areas and what impact that does have on the communities.

Mr Wilson—Dr Dolman has just advised me that the bureau did undertake some work a few years ago and released a report. From the Commonwealth point of view, we have done some work. It is an area that I would assume, but do not know, that the state jurisdictions will have undertaken in regards to their rural urban and transport planning.

Senator NASH—Is that information that you could collate for us from the various state departments if they have actually done those studies?

Mr Wilson—We can take the question on notice in terms of examining whether or not that research has been done and give you some advice.

Senator NASH—I certainly did not expect you to answer it now. If you could take that on notice and certainly come back to the committee and let us know if the states have undertaken that type of research.

Answer:

BITRE has not recently undertaken any research that specifically addresses the impact on regional communities of local public transport facilities.

BITRE is not aware of any specific studies undertaken by other Commonwealth departments or by state or territory agencies on this issue.