

The Senate

Standing Committee on
Rural and Regional
Affairs and Transport

Budget estimates 2008–09

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Abbreviations

ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
APVMA	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
AQIS	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
ARTC	Australian Rail Track Corporation
AWI	Australian Wool Innovation
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CWA	Country Women's Association
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
EC	Exceptional Circumstances
FMA Act	<i>Financial Management and Accountability Act</i>
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GE	Genetically Engineered
GM	Genetically Modified
GRDC	Grains Research and Development Corporation
ICON	Import Conditions Online
IRA	Import Risk Analysis
MIS	Managed Investment Scheme
NLIS	National Livestock Identification Scheme
NMSC	National Marine Safety Committee
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PETA	People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
SRM	Specified Risk Materials
US	United States
WA	Western Australia
WEA	Wheat Exports Australia
WTO	World Trade Organisation

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 On 13 May 2008, the Senate referred the following documents to the Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport (the committee) for examination and report in relation to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio and the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government portfolio:

- Particulars of proposed expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2009;
- Particulars of certain proposed expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2009;
- Particulars of proposed supplementary expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2008; and
- Particulars of certain proposed supplementary expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2008.¹

1.2 The committee was required to report to the Senate on its consideration of the 2007-2008 additional estimates on 24 June 2008.²

1.3 The committee considered the Portfolio Budget Statements 2008-2009 for both portfolios at hearings on 26, 27, 28 and 29 May 2008. The hearings were conducted in accordance with the agreed agenda as follows:

- Monday 26 May 2008 – Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio;
- Tuesday 27 May 2008 – Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio;
- Wednesday 28 May 2008 – Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government portfolio; and
- Thursday 29 May 2008 – Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government portfolio.

1.4 The committee heard evidence from Senator the Hon Nick Sherry, Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law, and Senator the Hon Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing, both representing the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy,

1 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 11, 'Particulars of Proposed and Certain Expenditure for 2008-2009 and Particulars of Proposed and Certain Supplementary Expenditure for 2007-08 Documents-Reference of Estimates to Committees', entry no. 33, 13 May 2008, p. 365.

2 *Journals of the Senate*, No. 2, 'Committees-Estimates Hearings', entry no. 8, 13 February 2008, p. 98.

representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government. Evidence was also provided by Dr Conall O'Connell, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Ms Susan Page, Acting Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, and officers representing the departments and agencies covered by the estimates before the committee.

1.5 The committee thanks the ministers, departmental secretaries and officers for their assistance and cooperation during the hearings.

Questions on Notice

1.6 In accordance with Standing Order 26(9)(a), the committee is required to set a date for the lodgement of written answers and additional information. The committee requested that written answers and additional information be submitted by Friday 18 July 2008.

1.7 The committee notes its disappointment that none of the questions taken on notice during the committee's examination of the 2007-2008 additional estimates were answered by the deadline set. The committee reminds portfolio departments and agencies that providing answers to the committee only days before the following estimates hearings, or in some cases, on the day of the subsequent hearings, is not acceptable practice. The committee emphasises its expectation that all answers to questions taken on notice during its examination of the 2008-2009 budget estimates will be submitted by the date set.

1.8 The committee further notes its dissatisfaction with the standard of a number of the responses provided to questions on notice from the 2007-2008 additional estimates. Senators raised this issue on a number of occasions throughout the estimates hearings across both portfolios, noting that many of the answers were unhelpful and provided little or no useful information.³

1.9 During the hearings the committee also emphasised that referring senators to a website hyperlink is an inappropriate way of responding to questions on notice.⁴ Moreover, the hyperlinks that were provided in the responses direct the committee to a general homepage as opposed to the particular page containing the information requested. The committee observed that in some instances the particular detail requested on notice was not available on the website referred to, and consequently the committee remained unable to obtain the information it was seeking.⁵ The minister indicated that the Prime Minister, on behalf of all ministers, had provided an answer to

3 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 4-5; *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 8-9, 97 and 110-111.

4 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 4-5; *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 8-9, 97 and 110-111.

5 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 110-111.

all questions throughout the estimates process requesting a list of election promises, which stated:

The election commitments made by Federal Labor, the great majority of which were accompanied by an estimate of costs, are on the public record. The Administrative Arrangements Orders issued by the Governor-General on 3 December 2007 and 25 January 2008 list the matters dealt with by each Department of State.⁶

However, the minister undertook to raise the matter of unsatisfactory answers regarding portfolio related issues with the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.⁷

1.10 The committee reiterates that referring senators to websites it is not an acceptable manner of responding to questions on notice, and expects that the department will provide appropriately detailed, relevant and up-to-date information in response to questions on notice in the future.

Additional information

1.11 Answers to questions taken on notice at the committee's budget estimates hearings, and any additional information received will be tabled in the Senate in separate volumes entitled 'Additional information relating to the examination of budget estimates 2008-2009 – May 2008 – Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport'. Documents not suitable for inclusion in the additional information volumes will be available on request from the committee secretariat.

1.12 Copies of the Hansard transcripts of the hearings are available from the committee's website. Answers to questions on notice and additional information received from the departments will also be posted on the committee's website at a later date.

Note on references

1.13 References to the Hansard transcript are to the proof Hansard, therefore page numbers may vary between the proof and the official Hansard transcript.

6 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 8 and 111.

7 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 8-9 and 110-111.

Chapter 2

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio

2.1 This chapter contains the key issues discussed during the 2008-2009 budget estimates hearings for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio. A complete list of all the topics discussed, and relevant page numbers, can be found at appendix 4.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

2.2 The committee heard evidence from the department on Monday 26 May and Tuesday 27 May 2008. The hearings were conducted in the following order:

- Management Services and Corporate Policy
- Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health
 - Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
 - Australian Wool Innovation
- Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
- Export Wheat Commission
- Biosecurity Australia
- International
- Food and Agriculture
 - Grains Research and Development Corporation
 - Meat and Livestock Australia
- Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
- Bureau of Rural Sciences
- Rural Policy and Innovation
- Natural Resource Management
- Fisheries and Forestry (incorporating Australian Fisheries Management Authority)

Management Services and Corporate Policy

2.3 Proceedings began with questions surrounding the department's application of the efficiency dividend, and related questions were raised at various points throughout the hearings. The committee was informed that the department has full latitude in its implementation of the efficiency dividend, and consequently the department applies

the dividend with the intention of reducing the cost of doing business, not reducing the service provided.¹

2.4 The department advised that it is planning to address the 3.25 per cent efficiency dividend for 2008-09 in a variety of ways. New arrangements have been put in place relating to the department's travel, including the transfer to a completely electronic booking system, and looking at 'best fare of the day' arrangements for all travel where appropriate. The department has also continued the process of automating time sheets, which is expected to create further savings.²

2.5 The committee expressed considerable interest in the redevelopment of the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service's (AQIS) major database, Import Conditions Online (ICON), particularly the employment of additional staff for the project. The department explained that the project involves two stages. The first stage will be the construction of the IT application itself, which will require extra staff employed on contract, in addition to the staff engaged by the IT software application provider. The second stage will consist of the translation of information from the current IT system to the new system, which will be carried out by AQIS staff. The department expects that 20 average staffing levels will be applied to that part of the project, and explained to the committee it is likely that the staff for those 20 positions will be seconded from other areas of AQIS. The department further noted that the project will be mainly funded through cost recovery mechanisms, as importers who will benefit from the ICON project pay for imports on a fee-for-service basis.³

2.6 The committee also asked about the department's utilisation of frequent flyer points. The department advised that according to its travel policy, frequent flyer points accrued for official travel remain the property of the department, and therefore cannot be used for private travel. Consequently frequent flyer points can be used to offset some travel costs. The department explained that staff are required to indicate on their application for travel whether they have sought to use frequent flyer points, however, the department does not require individuals to report on the number of frequent flyer points used.⁴

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

2.7 The committee sought information about how the use of chemicals is monitored. The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) advised that while it develops label and use instructions, it can only regulate chemicals up until the point of sale. Therefore APVMA can only regulate chemical suppliers, it does not have the authority to regulate users. APVMA explained that after a chemical

1 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 5-6 and 8-10.

2 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 5-6 and 8-10.

3 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 7-8, 10-12 and 81.

4 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 9 and 21-22.

is sold, it becomes the responsibility of states to monitor the use of that chemical. However, APVMA does have the power to remove a chemical if there is evidence that human health standards are being compromised.⁵

2.8 The committee expressed concern that the demarcation of regulatory responsibility between the states and the Commonwealth does not allow APVMA to ensure that the enforcement and monitoring carried out by the states is adequate.⁶

2.9 The department informed the committee that it had followed up certain issues raised during the discussion regarding residue testing on strawberries at the 2007-2008 additional estimates hearings. As a result, the department was able to clarify that only one chemical, chlorpyrifos, was actually found to be in excess of the maximum residue limit, not three as had been previously reported.⁷

2.10 During the hearings for the 2007-2008 additional estimates, the committee was informed that the review of a chemical identified in residue testing on strawberries (endosulfan) was completed in 2007, and this was noted in the committee's report *Additional Estimates 2007-08*.⁸ However, consequent to the tabling of its report, the committee received correspondence from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), clarifying that the endosulfan review was in fact completed in 2005.

Australian Wool Innovation

2.11 The committee sought information about the business operations and staffing of Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), expressing particular interest in the fact that the company has three appointed company secretaries. AWI explained that due to the frequency of officers' overseas travel, the company thought it wise to appoint additional company secretaries to ensure that there is always a secretary present in the country. AWI further clarified that the number of company secretaries does not pose an additional cost, as company secretaries are normal officers of the company and are not paid for their assignment to the role.⁹

2.12 The committee spent some time inquiring about the employment history and previous experience of two of the company secretaries, Mr Les Targ and Mr Chris Chapman.¹⁰ Following the budget estimates hearings, individual members of the committee received a letter from Mr Chapman concerning his appointment to AWI.

5 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 36-38.

6 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 36-38.

7 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, p. 41.

8 Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport, *Additional Estimates 2007-08*, March 2008, p. 6.

9 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 42-44.

10 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 44-46 and 62-63.

2.13 The committee also asked about the expansion of the board of directors. AWI explained that three more directors had recently been appointed on the basis of adding particular skills to the board. As a result, the number of directors on the board had increased from seven to ten, but is expected to return to nine later in the year.¹¹

2.14 AWI gave the committee a brief history of the development of clips as an alternative to the mulesing of sheep. The practice of clipping sheep involves applying clips to the skin to pinch off the patch of skin that is usually removed with mulesing shears. Initial trials found that the clipped area dies quickly with minimal trauma to the animal, and the process does not create an open wound. In 2005, when it became clear that other alternatives to mulesing were not proving particularly successful, the 'clip approach' was taken up by AWI. Officers advised that trials have found that clips work very well when applied correctly at the right age group.¹²

2.15 The committee expressed some concern about the considerable variation in the failure rate of clips, and the implications for farmers if the clips fail on a significant proportion of their sheep. AWI noted that current trials are quite sensitive to operator error in the application of clips. Despite this, AWI appeared confident that with the appropriate training, guidelines and equipment, operators will be able to successfully use clips when they are introduced for widespread commercial use next year.¹³

2.16 AWI further informed the committee that in terms of the attitude of retailers to clips,

...probably 10 retailers have made statements on clips, and in each case those statements have been triggered by fairly heavy intervention by PETA. When we have gone to talk to them about their position and to give them information about clips, they either soften or they change or they stick to their line depending on their own policies. But our view is that, particularly in the United States, the overwhelming majority of retailers at this stage support the use of clips.¹⁴

2.17 The committee also heard evidence on the operation of the Australian Wool and Sheep Industry Taskforce. AWI explained that the role of the taskforce has changed since its initial establishment to manage issues arising out of the *Cormo Express* incident, to dealing mainly with the activities of the organisation People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). As a result, AWI has taken over the funding of the taskforce, so the taskforce largely reports to AWI in terms of its costs and funding. Structurally, the taskforce remains representative of the peak wool industry bodies, and all operational and management issues, including the

11 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, p. 46.

12 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 50-51 and 54-55.

13 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 50-51 and 54-55.

14 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 52 and 55-57.

appointment of the chair, are a matter for members of the taskforce. However, it was noted that AWI is currently undertaking a substantial review of the role and activities of the taskforce.¹⁵

Product Integrity and Animal and Plant Health

2.18 The committee inquired about the administration and enforcement of Australian standards for the export of livestock, particularly as these standards are not incorporated in state legislation. The department informed the committee that live export standards are developed at a national level, and are consequently administered by states and territories. Officers noted that it is the responsibility of states and territories to have animal welfare legislation, however, this legislation differs across jurisdictions.¹⁶

2.19 The department drew the committee's attention to work currently underway to attain consistency in the standards and guidelines across all jurisdictions. Each standard will be individually developed, and then adopted separately under each of the state and territory legislations. This will enable a level of national consistency in standards across jurisdictions.¹⁷

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

2.20 The committee asked officers of AQIS for details of the external container inspection scheme, and whether this has been linked to the incursion of foreign bees carrying the varroa mite disease. Officers informed the committee that only one bee incursion had occurred, however, the incursion was linked to an original infestation in a yacht mast, not a container, and no evidence of the varroa mite disease has been found.¹⁸

2.21 The committee inquired why the Commonwealth had not been involved in the management of the abalone virus, ganglioneuritis. The department explained that while the Commonwealth has a role in national coordination regarding emergency arrangements in an outbreak, under the national management structure, outbreak control activities are the responsibility of the states and territories. The committee noted its concern that a jurisdictional issue is preventing the Commonwealth from taking control of the management of the situation.¹⁹

2.22 The committee sought an update on the Citrus Canker Eradication program and was informed that inspections of the exclusion zone and around the perimeter of

15 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 65-67.

16 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 70-71 and 74-75.

17 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 70-71 and 74-75.

18 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 83-84.

19 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 86-89.

the exclusion zone have continued. Officers also noted that AQIS has received increased resources for its compliance and investigation functions, and certain legislative changes are currently being progressed.²⁰

2.23 The committee asked officers of AQIS about the status of the case currently before the World Trade Organisation (WTO) concerning the importation of apples from New Zealand. The committee heard that there will be two panel hearings in Geneva, with the first hearing taking place on 2 and 3 September 2008. The department described to the committee how the process is likely to proceed, and offered to provide detail on the related timeframes on notice.²¹

2.24 Officers informed the committee that a taskforce has been set up to handle the presentation of Australia's case before the WTO. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will be leading that taskforce, and will be receiving legal assistance from the Attorney-General's department. Officers from AQIS, Biosecurity Australia and the International division will be providing technical assistance to the taskforce on behalf DAFF.²²

2.25 The committee was advised that new incoming passenger cards have been produced which ask specific questions about whether airline passengers have been in areas where the fresh water algae, *didymosphenia geminata* (didymo), is a risk. The card is now in use on all flights coming in from New Zealand, and will be rolled out to all flights coming into Australia later in the year. Officers further advised the committee that a variety of complementary measures had been implemented to inform the public about the risk of didymo.²³

2.26 The committee also heard in some the detail the measures in place to prevent an outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).²⁴

Export Wheat Commission

2.27 The committee was interested to hear how the Export Wheat Commission's successor body, Wheat Exports Australia (WEA), will be funded. The department explained that determination of the funding that will be required by WEA has yet to be finalised. Officers advised that any decision on funding will be reflected in the additional estimates, and until the decision is made, the government will continue the wheat export charge at its current rate.²⁵

20 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 89-90.

21 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 92-97.

22 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 92-97.

23 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 106-109.

24 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 120-123.

25 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, p. 115.

Biosecurity Australia

2.28 The committee sought an update on the progress of the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for bananas from the Philippines. Chief Executive of Biosecurity Australia advised the committee that the IRA team is currently considering submissions made on the revised draft report. A provisional final draft report will then be referred to the eminent scientists group and released to stakeholders. The provisional draft report will be open to appeal.²⁶

2.29 The committee indicated that a stakeholder had raised concerns about the pest risk assessment for black sigatoka in the draft IRA report. The Chief Executive explained to the committee that the matter raised by the stakeholder was duly referred to the IRA team for consideration. The IRA team consequently advised that a legitimate difference of opinion exists between experts regarding modelling issues associated with the spore count of black sigatoka. The officer explained that the issue revolved around whether the appropriate spore count to be used was one, one-and-a-half, or two. The committee was advised that Biosecurity Australia has taken account of the stakeholders comments.²⁷

International

2.30 The committee sought an update on progress of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China, and expressed concern that Australian agriculture will be at a disadvantage because agricultural products exported from China are subsidised by the existence of 'a different regime on environmental protection, human rights and labour standards and controls'.²⁸ The department explained that due to the already low tariffs in place for imports from China, it is unlikely that the FTA will have a significant impact on imports. Officers advised that the principal gain for Australia from the FTA would be improved access arrangements to the Chinese market.²⁹

Grains Research and Development Corporation

2.31 The committee inquired about the Grains Research and Development Corporation's (GRDC) work in developing 'a path to market' for genetically modified (GM) crops. Officers advised the committee that due to the substantial growth in the adoption of GM around the world, it was clear that Australian farmers will need to have access to GM technology. However, if no path to market is developed, farmers will not invest in the technology. In response to a positive attitude towards GM related

26 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 28-35.

27 *Estimates Hansard*, 26 May 2008, pp 28-35.

28 *Estimates Hansard*, 27 May 2008, pp 12-13.

29 *Estimates Hansard*, 27 May 2008, pp 12-13.

work from a grower survey, GRDC has been investing in GM, researching markets and keeping growers informed about the available technology.³⁰

2.32 The committee also asked how GM technology will improve productivity and profitability for farmers. Officers explained that the initial work on GM is producing production related traits, such as herbicide tolerance, and work is currently underway on traits such as nitrogen-use efficiency, water-use efficiency, double insecticide resistance, drought tolerance and saline tolerance. Officers stated that Australia will need access to this technology if it is to produce productively in the future.³¹

Meat and Livestock Australia

2.33 The committee sought information on Meat and Livestock Australia's domestic marketing program. Officers informed the committee that the campaign does not only focus on the quite prominent advertisements, but also involves investment in a series of other measures to promote the product. This includes:

- investment in human nutrition research to better understand the role that red meat plays in a healthy diet;
- working closely with retailers to help make red meat easy to buy and prepare. This may involve improving the trimming, presentation and packaging of the product or the promotion of the product; and
- reassuring consumers about the integrity of the product, by communicating an understanding of how red meat is produced.³²

Food and Agriculture

2.34 The committee asked whether the sugar industry restructure package had been concluded, and was advised that the program will be finalised by 30 June 2008. Officers advised that an amount of \$4 million was carried over to the 2008-09 financial year in the budget papers to complete a number of regional and community projects. It was also noted that some elements of the program were underspent, particularly those parts of the program which were demand driven, as the demand was not as great as originally anticipated.³³

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics

2.35 The committee held a long discussion with officers of the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) regarding the information and assumptions on which ABARE bases its oil price estimate, raising concerns that

30 *Estimates Hansard*, 27 May 2008, pp 35-36

31 *Estimates Hansard*, 27 May 2008, pp 35-39.

32 *Estimates Hansard*, 27 May 2008, pp 46-47.

33 *Estimates Hansard*, 27 May 2008, p. 57.

ABARE's estimated oil prices appear to have been consistently incorrect. Officers of ABARE informed the committee that in their modelling they source reliable published information, and ensure that they are as transparent as possible about the information that they use.³⁴ Officers further explained that they cannot model intangible situations – they can only deal with data:

...we cannot model what might happen in Iraq or we cannot model what the defence strategy of the US government might be, what we tend to do is say: here is what we know about the physical supply and demand and what is influencing those; what are the economic factors? Here are some upside risks, here are some downside risks. Here are risks that might make this estimate, this forecast, right or wrong. To the best of our ability we try to lay out what those risks are so that people can then have a look and say, 'Well, okay, ABARE cannot actually estimate or model geopolitical strategies around the world.' We cannot model hurricanes and the impact of those. We cannot reliably do that. What we try to do to the best of our ability...is try to lay out where we can quantify, we quantify; where we cannot, we will give the qualitative story.³⁵

2.36 The committee also sought further information on an ABARE report on the expected benefit if Australia moved to genetically engineered (GE) crops. The committee raised concerns that the scenario modelled did not appropriately factor in the market constraints which exist on GE crops. Officers explained to the committee that the purpose of the report was to illustrate the maximum potential increase in the value and output of crops if GE technology is adopted. Officers noted that it is not possible to factor in the precision and complexities of the real world within the confines of an economic model. ABARE officers emphasised that the report was simply an illustrative scenario, and that the assumptions used in the modelling were clearly described in the report. Notwithstanding this explanation, the committee reiterated its concern that the information in the report has been embraced by the media, and ABARE has yet to do any alternative work to demonstrate the issues on the other side of the debate.³⁶

Rural Policy and Innovation

2.37 The committee showed interest in the method by which funding for Exceptional Circumstances (EC) assistance is determined. The department explained that:

...estimates are calculated on the basis of current EC declarations....They are based on existing EC declarations, not extensions or new ones. They

34 *Estimates Hansard*, 27 May 2008, pp 59-69.

35 *Estimates Hansard*, 27 May 2008, p. 61.

36 *Estimates Hansard*, 27 May 2008, pp 76-79.

take into account what the current conditions are. They do not try to make predictions about what the future might be.³⁷

.....

Should EC be extended or new areas come in, new estimates would have to be calculated and costings provided and then that money would be provided through an additional estimates or a supplementary additional estimates process.³⁸

2.38 The committee also inquired about the government's undertaking to provide \$15 million of funding to research and development corporations. The department informed the committee that the \$15 million dollars for climate change research is part of the \$130 million dollars allocated to the Australia's Farming Future program, and that details of that particular program had yet to be announced.³⁹

Natural Resource Management

2.39 The committee spent a significant amount of time clarifying the funding allocated to Natural Resource Management (NRM) regional bodies. The department explained that in the 2008-09 year, these regional bodies will receive 60 per cent of their historical funding.⁴⁰ In addition to this, NRM bodies will receive a smaller amount of money to assist them in managing the transition to the new funding arrangements. Funding for future years has yet to be determined.⁴¹

Fisheries and Forestry (incorporating Australian Fisheries Management Authority)

2.40 The committee raised the Auditor-General's report on the Tasmanian Forest Industry Development and Assistance Programs, particularly in relation to the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement program, and sought the department's response to the report. The department indicated that it has accepted three of the Auditor-General's recommendations, and is currently implementing procedures to address those recommendations.⁴²

2.41 The committee questioned officers on the situation surrounding the destruction of various fishing boats from Indonesia. The department advised that these particular nine vessels had been fishing in an unusual manner and had been apprehended as illegal fishing vessels. Upon further investigation officers realised that an error had been made. However, five of the vessels had been destroyed during

37 *Estimates Hansard*, 27 May 2008, p. 97.

38 *Estimates Hansard*, 27 May 2008, pp 99-100.

39 *Estimates Hansard*, 27 May 2008, pp 100-104.

40 Funding received under the former NHT and NAP programs.

41 *Estimates Hansard*, 27 May 2008, pp 116-122.

42 *Estimates Hansard*, 27 May 2008, pp 131-132.

transport, as it was unsafe to continue towing them. The department consequently paid the fishers restitution for the value of their boats, and covered the cost of repatriating them to their ports.⁴³

2.42 The department advised that in light of the incident, an amendment to the operating instructions in north Australian waters has been issued to prevent a similar situation reoccurring.⁴⁴

43 *Estimates Hansard*, 27 May 2008, pp 132-135.

44 *Estimates Hansard*, 27 May 2008, p. 132.

Chapter 3

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Portfolio

3.1 This chapter contains the key issues discussed during the 2008-2009 budget estimates hearings for the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government portfolio. A complete list of all topics discussed, and the relevant page numbers, can be found at appendix 5.

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

3.2 The committee heard evidence from the department on Wednesday 28 May 2008 and Thursday 29 May 2008. The hearings were conducted in the following order:

- Corporate Services
- Inspector of Transport Security
- Office of Transport Security
- Civil Aviation Safety Authority
- Australian Transport Safety Bureau
- Airservices Australia
- Aviation and Airports
- Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
- Australian Rail Track Corporation
- Infrastructure Investment
- National Transport Strategy
- Infrastructure and Surface Transport Policy
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority
- Local Government and Regional Services

Secretary's overview

3.3 Proceedings commenced with a detailed opening statement from the Acting Secretary of the department, Ms Susan Page. She conveyed the apologies of the Secretary, Mr Michael Taylor, who was representing the minister at the inaugural meeting of the International Transport Forum in Leipzig, Germany. Ms Page also outlined a series of changes which had taken place in the department.

3.4 The committee heard that the department has a new outcome and output structure, which reflects its expanded role in infrastructure. These changes have been outlined in appendix 6.

3.5 In addition, the department has undergone various structural changes, which have been outlined in appendix 7.

Corporate Services

3.6 The committee raised its dissatisfaction with the standard of responses to questions taken on notice at the 2007-08 additional estimates hearings, and emphasised that referring senators to a website hyperlink is not an appropriate way of responding to questions on notice. The committee raised this issue on a number of occasions throughout the hearings.¹

3.7 The committee sought information on the department's implementation of the efficiency dividend. The department reiterated that it does not anticipate that the application of the efficiency dividend will impact on staff numbers. Officers explained that in an effort to reduce overall costs the department has been reviewing supplier expenses, such as departmental travel and related travel expenses, as well as consultancies and contracted work, and considering whether some of the latter services can be performed in-house at a lower cost.²

3.8 The committee also asked whether the department encourages staff to use frequent flyer points incurred through work-related travel, for official travel. The department assured the committee that officers can only use such frequent flyer points for official travel, however, the department does not monitor the use of frequent flyer points.³

3.9 The committee asked officers of the department whether grants issued by the minister to date had received departmental approval. The department clarified that

[w]here the minister is the approver under the FMA Act, the department does not approve. The department's role is to provide advice to the minister, and the minister is responsible for approving the project...the minister, under the FMA Act, is required under reg 9 to ensure that any grant represents an efficient and effective use of funds, and is consistent with Commonwealth policies, and on that basis is obliged to take into account the advice of the department.⁴

1 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 8-9.

2 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 4 and 11.

3 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, p. 14.

4 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, p. 16.

Inspector of Transport Security

3.10 The Inspector of Transport Security informed the committee of the status of the current inquiry into intrastate passenger ferries in Australia. The Inspector explained to the committee that the inquiry was looking at large, intrastate, privately operated passenger ferries, and some smaller cruise ships. The committee was advised that the report is expected to be completed and submitted to the minister in July.⁵

Office of Transport Security

3.11 The committee held a lengthy discussion with officers regarding the reduction of forward funding for the regional maritime security capacity building program to assist Indonesia.⁶ The department explained to the committee that

...the Howard government had allocated \$7.8 million for that particular function. Subsequently, that money was not made available. It did not affect any capacity building projects per se that were ongoing because no money had been committed, no contracts had been signed and no commitments had been made to the Indonesian government.⁷

3.12 The committee questioned whether the reduction in funding was wise, given that the United States Coast Guard had made an announcement advising of concerns regarding the security standards of a number of Indonesian ports, and had consequently given Indonesia 90 days in which to comply with certain security issues. Officers advised that

Australia's national interest is in ensuring that ships coming to Australia or transiting through Indonesia en route to or from Australia have adequate security. There are a range of measures that we take today for all ships entering Australia. Nothing in the US advice at the time changes our approach. We are comfortable that those ships, subject to transit through Indonesia, are adequately secure and are subject to risk assessments prior to arrival in Australia.⁸

3.13 The committee also asked about the closed-circuit television (CCTV) trials that were conducted at regional airports. Officers informed the committee that as a result of the recommendations of Sir John Wheeler's review, whole-of-government leadership of CCTV developments has been passed to the Australian Customs Service.⁹

5 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 23-25 and 28-31.

6 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 36-40.

7 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, p. 36.

8 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 36-37.

9 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 40-41.

Civil Aviation Safety Authority

3.14 The committee heard, in some detail, evidence relating to an incident in which an Australian pilot was given incorrect advice by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regarding documentation required for operations outside Australian territory. While CASA advised the committee that the officer involved later contacted the pilot to correct the advice originally provided, the phone call was made on the day that the aircraft departed Thailand and the pilot did not receive the officer's message containing the correct advice until he landed. Upon landing in Singapore the pilot was arrested and detained. The committee asked CASA whether it had provided the Singaporean authorities with an account of the events prior to the incident, and was advised that CASA had not been requested to provide that information.¹⁰

3.15 The committee also discussed at length criticisms of CASA contained in the Queensland coroner's report into the Lockhart River tragedy, and CASA's response to those criticisms. CASA advised the committee that it has reviewed the coroner's report and implemented the recommendations.¹¹

3.16 The committee noted the limited availability of CASA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Bruce Byron, during the budget estimates hearings, and indicated that they would explore options for further examining CASA's administration at a time when Mr Byron was available. On 29 May 2008 the committee resolved to adopt an inquiry into the administration of CASA and related matters under Standing Order 25(2)(b).¹²

Australian Transport Safety Bureau

3.17 The committee noted that the bureau's funding had been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend. Officers advised that the bureau will be looking at discretionary expenditure such as travel to make the required savings, but appeared confident that the efficiency dividend will only have a minimal impact on the bureau's business.¹³

3.18 The bureau advised the committee that a number of programs, such as the Road Safety Research Grants program, and the Novice Driver program, had been transferred to other areas of the department as a result of the structural changes that have taken place.¹⁴

10 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 44-54.

11 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 55-65.

12 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 44 and 48.

13 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, p. 71.

14 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 71-73.

Airservices Australia

3.19 The committee heard evidence on the challenges faced by Airservices Australia due to the shortage of air traffic controllers and other workforce related issues. Officers noted there are various contributing factors to the staff shortage in the aviation industry. However, the committee was advised that Airservices Australia has undertaken a vigorous recruitment campaign, and has renewed its recruitment training and workforce transition program to address these issues.¹⁵

Aviation and Airports

3.20 The committee noted that \$14.5 million will be provided for the noise insulation of Fort Street High School in Sydney, and asked officers why the school had not previously been funded under the Sydney Airport Noise Amelioration Scheme. Officers advised the committee that the school had not met the eligibility criteria for funding under that program.¹⁶

Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics

3.21 The committee noted that the bureau was one of the divisions which had provided a number of responses to questions on notice directing senators to a website.¹⁷

3.22 The committee asked how the bureau intended to apply the efficiency dividend. Officers advised that they were looking at non-employee costs, such as travel, printing costs and revenue options.¹⁸

3.23 Officers informed the committee of a survey completed on grocery prices across regional Australia, which found that prices vary a great deal across locations. The survey ascertained that prices were generally lower in centres which were large enough to have a major chain supermarket or one of the independent supermarkets with a high turnover format.¹⁹

Australian Rail Track Corporation

3.24 The CEO of the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) provided the committee with a very detailed and informative briefing on the work undertaken by the ARTC.

15 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 73-75.

16 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, p. 92.

17 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, p. 97.

18 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, p. 98.

19 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, p. 100.

3.25 The committee sought information on the current issues surrounding the transport of grain. The CEO advised that grain lines have become inefficient and costly, as assets are simply being patched up as problems arise. He further noted

...there needs to be quite a lot of thinking about getting into box silos in more key locations, recognising the truck transportation of those silos and then to deal with rail on a more optimised efficiency basis, and there has to be a hard look across the nation at getting a more efficient logistics framework which recognises the technology available today and the efficiency of that technology.²⁰

Infrastructure Investment

3.26 The committee again raised the issue of unsatisfactory answers to questions on notice, observing that responses relating to road funding also referred senators to websites, a number of which did not contain the level of information that the committee was seeking. The committee reiterated that these answers were unhelpful and not of an acceptable standard.²¹

3.27 The committee noted that the Building Australia Fund is administered by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. Officers explained that management of the fund is a financial management task, therefore it has been allocated to the finance portfolio which manages funds of a similar nature.²²

3.28 The committee demonstrated considerable interest in the role and operation of Infrastructure Australia and its board. The department advised that Infrastructure Australia is an advisory body, and its role is to provide advice on nationally significant infrastructure to inform future investment decisions. Officers further advised that the board has been appointed, and will meet at least monthly.²³

3.29 The committee also inquired into the proposed operation of the grain rail taskforce. Officers advised that the nature and membership of the taskforce, and its terms of reference have yet to be finalised. Officers further informed the committee that the taskforce will be looking at long-term solutions for the transport of grain by rail in New South Wales, and it is expected to start operating early in the financial year.²⁴

20 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, p. 139.

21 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 110-111.

22 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 100-101.

23 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 102-110.

24 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 123-124.

National Transport Strategy

3.30 The committee heard about the role of the new departmental division, National Transport Strategy. Officers informed the committee that the division's responsibilities will include coordinating regulatory reforms and developing national strategy. The intention is to implement a national approach to various aspects of transport strategy through a series of working groups established under the division.²⁵

Infrastructure and Surface Transport Policy

3.31 The committee asked for further detail on the keys2drive program. The department advised that the initiative involves a free professional lesson for learner drivers and their supervisors, as well as the development of an interactive website and other educational resources.²⁶

3.32 Officers explained that this is essentially a train the trainer scheme, elaborating that

[t]he concept behind the program is that the majority of driving that a learner driver undertakes prior to obtaining their licence is actually undertaken with their supervisor, usually their parent or a mentor. The concept behind the program is to enable the learner driver and that supervisor to undertake a lesson with a trained professional so that the trained professional can impart some of the skills associated with teaching driving in a professional manner as opposed to picking up habits that some of us develop over our driving lives and pass on subconsciously to our children and those that learn from us.²⁷

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

3.33 The committee had requested the appearance of the National Marine Safety Committee (NMSC) at the 2008-09 budget estimates hearings. In response to this request, the committee received correspondence from the acting secretary of the department, advising that as the NMSC is not a Commonwealth statutory agency or authority, or a government business enterprise, but rather a joint Commonwealth/state body established by intergovernmental agreement, representatives of the NMSC would not be appearing at the hearings.

3.34 The committee sought clarification on the funding arrangements for the NMSC. The department advised that NMSC is not directly funded from the budget, but through contributions from all jurisdictions, including the Commonwealth.²⁸

25 *Estimates Hansard*, 29 May 2008, pp 40-41.

26 *Estimates Hansard*, 29 May 2008, pp 48-49.

27 *Estimates Hansard*, 29 May 2008, p. 49.

28 *Estimates Hansard*, 29 May 2008, p. 51.

3.35 Officers explained to the committee that while NMSC has had considerable success in developing maritime standards, the pace of reform has been slow due to the challenge of getting each jurisdiction to implement those standards, and change their legislation accordingly. The committee heard that officers are developing a paper for presentation to ministers, which will outline the option of a single national approach to the implementation and development of standards through AMSA.²⁹

Local Government and Regional Development

3.36 At the commencement of the estimates hearings for the portfolio, the committee requested the provision of three lists relating to project applications under the Regional Partnerships program, containing information on the following projects:

- the 116 projects which were approved but not contracted;
- the 452 projects which had been approved and contracted; and
- the 494 project applications which had been submitted but had not been assessed.³⁰

3.37 The committee acknowledged the receipt of lists containing information on the 116 non-contracted projects and the 452 contracted projects prior to its examination of the Local Government and Regional Development division. However, the committee questioned why a list of the remaining 494 project applications could not be provided. The minister explained that

[t]he Regional Partnership Program has closed. The applications in question have no status. They are not recipients of Commonwealth funding under the regional program. There is a difference between projects that were unsuccessful in a continuing program and projects that were never considered because the program does not exist. Given the expressed wish of the members of the committee to have access to this information, what the minister has decided is that we will write to the applicants to ask them if they are willing to have their details disclosed, and if the applicant is willing we are happy to provide the details.³¹

3.38 The committee was advised that the 116 approved but not contracted Regional Partnerships projects discussed at the 2007-08 additional estimates hearings had become 115, as one of the proponents had signed and returned their contract, and that application has become an actively progressing project.³²

3.39 The committee noted that the government had made a budget decision to close the Regional Partnerships and Sustainable Regions programs, and projects which did

29 *Estimates Hansard*, 29 May 2008, pp 52-53.

30 *Estimates Hansard*, 29 May 2008, pp35 and 42.

31 *Estimates Hansard*, 29 May 2008, p. 59.

32 *Estimates Hansard*, 29 May 2008, p. 67.

not already have a contract in place, including the 115 previously mentioned, would not proceed. The committee further noted that 86 of those projects are now being considered for funding. The minister explained that since the budget, the government has announced that 86 not-for-profit and local government projects which had been approved but not contracted have now been granted until 31 July 2008 to complete their contract negotiations.³³

3.40 The committee raised the issue of numerous communities which had made applications to the Regional Partnerships program in good faith and asked if these communities will be able to pursue alternative avenues for funding.³⁴ The minister informed the committee that the government has announced that a new program, the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure program, will be included in next year's budget to fund investment in community infrastructure.³⁵

3.41 The department informed the committee that the administrative arrangements for the Better Regions program are currently being finalised. Officers further advised that while the government has yet to announce the projects that will be funded under Better Regions, it is likely that some Regional Partnerships projects which were government election commitments will be funded through this program.³⁶ The committee was told that applications cannot be made to the Better Regions program as it is currently 'fully committed based on the government's election commitments'.³⁷

3.42 The committee sought detail about the assessment process for projects which will be funded under the Better Regions program. The minister repeatedly stated that each election commitment announced during the campaign will be funded.³⁸

3.43 The committee also heard that the Office of Northern Australia is a new function of the department, but will run out of existing regional offices in Darwin and Townsville, as well as from Canberra. Officers advised that the Office of Northern Australia has been allocated \$2 million of funding each year over the next four years.³⁹

Senator Glenn Sterle Chair

33 *Estimates Hansard*, 29 May 2008, pp 66-68.

34 *Estimates Hansard*, 29 May 2008, pp 88-103.

35 *Estimates Hansard*, 29 May 2008, pp 68 and 101.

36 *Estimates Hansard*, 29 May 2008, pp 100-101 and 120-122.

37 *Estimates Hansard*, 29 May 2008, p. 120.

38 *Estimates Hansard*, 28 May 2008, pp 21-22; *Estimates Hansard*, 29 May 2008, pp 120-121.

39 *Estimates Hansard*, 29 May 2008, pp 126-128.

Additional Comments from Senators Scullion, Heffernan, McGauran and Nash

The coalition senators register their dissatisfaction with the actions of the minister in refusing to allow departmental officials to answer questions asked by the committee when it was apparent that the information requested was at hand.

The minister had to be reminded a number of times of his obligations under standing orders to either provide the information or clearly state the grounds under which the question could not be answered. Despite the committee's actions and the provision of advice from the Clerk of the Senate being required for both estimates sessions this year, the minister's actions remain obstructive to the operation of the committee.

Senator Nigel Scullion
Senator for Northern Territory

Senator the Hon Bill Heffernan
Senator for New South Wales

Senator Julian McGauran
Senator for Victoria

Senator Fiona Nash
Senator for New South Wales

Appendix 1

Departments and agencies under the two portfolios for which the committee has oversight

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Australian Government Department

- Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry
 - Management Services Division
 - Corporate Policy Division
 - Natural Resource Management Division
 - Rural Policy and Innovation Division
 - Fisheries and Forestry Division
 - Food and Agriculture Division
 - International Division
 - Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health Division
 - Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)
 - Bureau of Rural Sciences
 - Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE)

Prescribed Agencies

- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
- Biosecurity Australia
- Dairy Adjustment Authority
- Export Wheat Commission

Commonwealth Authorities

- Australian Fisheries Management Authority
- Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation
- Cotton Research and Development Corporation
- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
- Grains Research and Development Corporation
- Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation

- Land and Water Research and Development Corporation (Land and Water Australia)
- Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
- Sugar Research and Development Corporation

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Portfolio

Australian Government Department

- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
 - Corporate Services
 - Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
 - Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB)
 - Infrastructure and Surface Transport Policy
 - Office of Transport Security
 - Office of the Inspector of Transport Security
 - Infrastructure Investment
 - National Transport Strategy
 - Aviation and Airports
 - Local Government and Regional Development

Commonwealth Authorities

- Airservices Australia
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)
- Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)

Commonwealth Companies

- Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd
- Maritime Industry Finance Company Ltd

Statutory Corporation

- National Transport Commission

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Appendix 3

Tabled Documents

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio

Documents tabled at hearing on Monday, 26 May 2008

- (1) Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of NSW v. Chapman – Senator Bill Heffernan
- (2) Opening statement – Mr John Watson, Chair, Export Wheat Commission

Documents tabled at hearing on Tuesday, 27 May 2008

- (3) Submission to Senate Select Committee on Agriculture and Related Industries Inquiry into chemical and fertiliser pricing and supply arrangements– Mr Phillip Glyde, Executive Director, ABARE
- (4) Portfolio appointments – Dr Conall O'Connell, Secretary, DAFF
- (5) Map of permitted fishing zones for Indonesian vessels – Mr Glenn Hurry, Managing Director, AFMA

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government portfolio

Documents tabled at hearing on Wednesday, 28 May 2008

- (1) Infrastructure opening statement – Ms Susan Page, Acting Secretary, DITRDLG
- (2) Hunter Valley Corridor 2007-2012 Capacity Strategy-Consultation Document – Mr David Marchant, Chief Executive Officer, ARTC

Documents tabled at hearing on Thursday 29 May 2008

- (3) Not-for-Profit and Local Council Projects – Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- (4) Schools insulated under the Adelaide Airport Noise Insulation Program – Mr Andrew Wilson, Acting Deputy Secretary, DITRDLG
- (5) BTRE Working Paper 54-Regional Public Transport in Australia: Economic Regulation and Assistance Measures – Mr Andrew Wilson, Acting Deputy Secretary, DITRDLG

(6) BTRE Working paper 51-Regional Public Transport in Australia: Long-distance Services, Trends and Projections – Mr Andrew Wilson, Acting Deputy Secretary, DITRDLG

(7) Regional Partnerships-Projects with approved amounts and open balances – Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

(8) Photo of a sapling of the Tree of Knowledge – Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Appendix 4

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Appendix 5

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Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Portfolio

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Appendix 6

Changes to Outcome/Output Structure

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Outcome/Output	Current Wording	Change/Comment
Outcome 1	Assisting the Government to provide, evaluate, plan and invest in infrastructure across industry sectors.	New outcome to reflect the department's expanded role in infrastructure.
Outcome 2	Fostering an efficient, sustainable, competitive, safe and secure transport system.	Unchanged
Outcome 3	Assisting regions and local government to develop and manage their futures.	Previous wording: Assisting regions to manage their own futures.

Appendix 7

Changes to Departmental Structure

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Current Divisions	Changes
Infrastructure and Surface Transport Policy	Previously known as Maritime and Land Transport
Infrastructure Investment	Previously known as AusLink
National Transport Strategy	New division
Local Government and Regional Development	Two previously separate divisions, Regional Services, and, Local Government, have been merged.

