

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: NBII 101

Division/Agency: Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Nation Building Program

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I also notice that this Bill will enable the Minister to approve AusLink Strategic Regional Projects (now to be termed Nation Building Program Off-Network Projects) for projects which are off the National Land Transport Network and which are not in regional areas of Australia. Is that correct?

Answer:

Yes.

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Question No.: NBII 102

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Nation Building Program Off-Network Projects

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

What is the purpose of the Nation Building Program Off-Network Projects?

Answer:

Refer to Minister's second reading speech.

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Question No.: NBII 103

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Nation Building Program Off-Network Projects

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Senator NASH—How much money has been allocated to what was known as the National Building Program Off-Network Projects? Over 2009-10? Over the four years from 2009-10, to 2012-13?

Answer:

Information is available on the Nation Building Program website.

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Question No.: NBII 104

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Nation Building Program Off-Network Projects

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Senator NASH—So is this the end of a highly significant stream of road funding for regional Australia?

Answer:

Refer to NB II 102.

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Question No.: NBII 105

Division/Agency: Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Nation Building Program

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

What prompted this legislative change?

Answer:

The Government has made policy and funding decisions under the Nation Building Program that differ from the previous AusLink program. The Bill, which received Royal Assent on 26 June 2009, puts in place the appropriate provisions to ensure the effective delivery of the suite of land transport initiatives now funded under this Program.

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Question No.: NBII 106

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment
Topic: Nation Building Program Off-Network Projects
Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Senator NASH—How much of this funding will now end up in urban Australia ?

Answer:

Details of projects funded as part of the Off-Network program are available on the Nation Building Program website.

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Question No.: NBII 107

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Nation Building Program Off-Network Projects

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

What are the new criteria that will apply to obtain funding for the Nation Building Program Off-Network Projects?

Answer:

All provisions are outlined in the *Nation Building Program (National Land Transport) Amendment Act 2009*.

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Question No.: NBII 108

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Nation Building Program

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I refer to the so-called \$4.7 billion Nation Building Package released by the Government on 12 December last year. I notice that it will bring forward \$711 million over 2008-09 and 2009-10 into 14 national road projects already announced under AusLink – or the Nation Building Program.

The 14 projects to which the Nation Building Package refers are the:

- Buladelah Bypass (Pacific Highway, NSW);
- Sextons Hill Section, Banora Point (Pacific Highway, NSW);
- Tarcutta Bypass (Hume Highway, NSW);
- Woomargama Bypass (Hume Highway, NSW);
- Ipswich Motorway Upgrade Dinmore to Goodna (QLD);
- Duplication of the Douglas Arterial Road (Townsville, QLD);
- Pacific Motorway Transit Project (Section B) – Springwood South to Daisy Hill (QLD);
- Goulburn Valley Highway – Nagambie Bypass (VIC);
- Princes Highway East – Traralgon to Sale Duplication (VIC);
- Western Highway – Anthony’s Cutting Realignment (VIC);
- Western Ring Road Upgrade and Capacity Improvement (VIC);
- Mandurah Entrance Road (WA);
- Northern Expressway (SA); and the
- Midland Highway – Brighton Bypass (TAS).

Could you please explain to the Committee the dispersal of the \$711 million that is, how much money has been allocated to each project out of the \$711 million?

Answer:

All details can be found in the Australian Government Nation Building December 2008 publication.

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Question No.: NBII 109

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Nation Building Program

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Senator NASH—So, to be clear, this money is simply taking money from the out-years and loading it up on the front-years. Is that correct?

Answer:

In order to provide an economic stimulus in response to the global financial crisis, the Government decided to bring forward \$711 million under the Nation Building Program.

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Question No.: NBII 110

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Repairs for Regional Roads

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I refer to the \$42 billion deficit spend cash-splash, announced by the Government in its *February 2009 Updated Economic and Fiscal Outlook*. I note that the \$42 billion spend includes \$150 million allocated in 2008-09. I quote from page 70 of the document:

The Government will provide funding of \$150 million in 2008-09 to repair regional links on the national highway network. In addition to preventing the deterioration of national highways this initiative will create jobs in regional Australia, including areas where jobs are being lost due to a contraction of activity in the mining sector.

On what projects under AusLink has this money been spent? Can you provide the Committee with the name of each project and how much each project received from the \$150 million?

Answer:

Details are available on the Nation Building Program website.

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Question No.: NBII 111

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Repairs for Regional Roads

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

How much of that money has been spent this financial year?

Answer:

The full amount of \$150 million.

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Question No.: NBII 112

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Repairs for Regional Roads

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Senator NASH—Will the monies not spent be rolled over to be spent in the following financial year of 2009-10?

Answer:

Not applicable. (See NBII 111)

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Question No.: NBII 113

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: F3 to Branxton Road Link

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I refer to the Government's commitment in the recent Budget to spend \$1.4 billion over six years towards the construction of 40 kilometres of dual carriageway linking the F3 and the New England Highway near Braxton.

I notice that, according to the departmental website of Minister Albanese, the Government has allocated \$51 million to preconstruction activities for the F3 to Branxton link. Has that money been spent? What pre-construction activities have occurred?

Answer:

Yes. Planning and pre-construction activities include environmental assessment and planning approval processes, geotechnical investigations, utility adjustments, design development, community consultation, property acquisitions and procurement arrangements.

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Question No.: NBII 114

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: F3 to Branxton Road Link

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I also note that land acquisitions by the NSW Government to reserve the corridor for the F3 to Branxton road link are on hold until the conclusion of the study into the transport needs of the Lower Hunter Region.

What is the status of this study in light of the Budget announcement? Is it complete?

Answer:

The Lower Hunter Transport Needs Study has been completed and is available on the Department's website.

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Question No.: NBII 115

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: F3 to Branxton Road Link

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

What are its conclusions?

Answer:

See response to NBII 114.

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Question No.: NBII 116

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: F3 to Branxton Road Link

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

In light of the Budget announcement, have land acquisitions resumed?

Answer:

The NSW Roads and Traffic Authority is continuing with all pre-construction activities, including land acquisitions.

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Question No.: NBII 117

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: F3 to Branxton Road Link

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I also notice that according to the Minister's website, and I quote:

In the last five years, the estimated cost of the F3 to Branxton project has increased from \$382 million (2003 dollars) to \$765 million (2005 dollars) to \$1.2 billion (2007 dollars). The estimate of \$1.2 billion potentially translates to an outturn cost of \$1.7 billion even if construction were to commence in 2009.

Given that the Government has committed \$1.4 billion over six years to this project, and the cost has blown out to \$1.7 billion, has the Government struck an agreement that NSW will fund the balance?

Answer:

The Australian Government has committed \$1.45 billion and NSW has agreed to contribute \$200 million towards the project. The Australian Government has previously provided \$50 million towards planning and pre-construction activities.

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Question No.: NBII 118

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: F3 to Branxton Road Link

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

When will that agreement occur?

Answer:

See answer to NBII 117.

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Question No.: NBII 119

Division/Agency: Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Northern Sydney Rail Freight Corridor

Hansard Pages: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I refer to the Government's promise made on 19 November 2007 that it would provide \$840 million towards a dedicated freight rail track from North Strathfield to Gosford.

I notice on the departmental website for Minister Albanese, that the Federal Government is providing \$15 million to undertake planning for the Northern Sydney Rail Freight Corridor. This planning involves developing a concept design, environmental assessment and development approval for infrastructure improvements along the rail corridor between North Strathfield and Broadmeadow (a suburb of Newcastle). Apparently, the focus of the planning will be on providing additional capacity for freight rail services; segregating passenger and freight services; and reducing peak-period restrictions on freight services. The planning work will be undertaken by the Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation (TIDC), a NSW Government corporation.

When will this planning be complete?

Answer:

It is scheduled to be completed by late 2010.

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Question No.: NBII 120

Division/Agency: Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Northern Sydney Rail Freight Corridor

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

When will the Government fulfil its election promise and start building one of the most crucial rail links needed on the east coast?

Answer:

Work on delivering this election commitment has commenced through the planning and feasibility investigation work being carried out under the Northern Sydney Freight Corridor Project.

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Question No.: NBII 121

Division/Agency: Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Northern Sydney Rail Freight Corridor

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

How much will it finally cost? When does the Government propose to spend its election commitment of \$840 million?

Answer:

The \$15 million Northern Sydney Freight Corridor planning project is currently underway.

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Question No. NBII 122

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Moorebank Intermodal Facility

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

The Labor Party, in the 2007 election campaign, promised to provide \$300 million for a state-of-the-art intermodal freight terminal at Moorebank. Obviously, this is an important project, since it could go a long way to taking trucks off Sydney's roads. Now, I understand this site has been the home of the Defence Department's School of Military Engineering.

What progress has been made by the Government to fulfil its election promise to build this important piece of infrastructure?

Answer:

Planning and scoping work is currently underway.

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Question No.: NBII 123

Division/Agency: Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Port Botany Road and Rail Access

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

The Labor Party also promised during the election campaign that it would provide \$150 million to improve road and rail access for Port Botany road. Another worthwhile project I am sure, but what progress has the Government made in implementing this promise it made on 19 November 2007?

Answer:

\$150 million is committed to the project through the Nation Building Program.

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Question No.: NBII 124

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Gateway Motorway North

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I notice the promise made by the Labor Party on 13 November 2007 to provide \$125 million to 'get moving now' on the northern missing link from the Gateway Motorway at Nudgee in Brisbane to the Bruce Highway. Of that \$125 million, I understand that, according to the Minister's press release dated 20 August 2008, the Government gave the Queensland Government \$10 million to complete planning on the widening of the Gateway Motorway's two missing links by no later than June 2009.

How is the planning study going? Will it meet the deadline? When will it be completed?

Answer:

This is a study undertaken by the Queensland Government.

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Question No.: NBII 125

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Gateway Motorway North

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

When does the Rudd Government propose to 'get moving now' on the northern missing link?
When does it propose to spend the balance of the \$125 million to progress the project?

Answer:

The planning for the Gateway Motorway Upgrade North project, commenced in 2008 with funds made available under the Tackling Urban Congestion and Planning initiative. The \$5 million of the \$125 million allocated to this project has been allocated in 2009-10 to commence planning for the preferred solution emanating from the Urban Congestion-funded planning.

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Question No.: NBII 126

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Gateway Motorway North

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

When will the northern missing link from the Gateway Motorway at Nudgee to the Bruce Highway be built?

Answer:

The possible timing of construction has to be finalised in consultation with the Queensland Government.

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Question No.: NBII 127

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Gateway Motorway North

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I further notice that in its press release of 4 October 2007, Labor promised to spend \$125 million for the Gateway northern missing link to the Bruce Highway at South Pine River. Now, South Pine River is of course in the Seat of Petrie. I am curious then – are these two different promises – that Labor is in fact going to spend \$250 million on the northern missing link – that is \$125 million at Nudgee and \$125 million at South Pine Rivers?

Answer:

The Australian Government has committed \$125 million towards upgrading the Gateway Motorway North.

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Question No.: NBII 128

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Gateway Motorway North

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Perhaps it is the same promise, simply recycled for release in two different seats in the election campaign?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 127.

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Question No.: NBII 129

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Gateway Motorway North

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Is this correct?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 127.

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Question No.: NBII 130

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Northern Link

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I refer to yet another infrastructure promise made by Labor in the election campaign. This is your commitment to provide \$500 million out of AusLink 2 and 3 for the \$1.5 billion Northern Link Tunnel from the Western Freeway at Toowong in west Brisbane to the Inner City Bypass at Bowen Hills.

What planning has the Government undertaken to achieve this project?

Answer:

Planning for this project is being undertaken by the Brisbane City Council.

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Question No.: NBII 131

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Northern Link

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Has the Government decided how much of this money will come out of AusLink 2 and 3?
What will be the respective allocations?

Answer:

Details are available on the Nation Building Program website.

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Question No.: NBII 132

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Northern Link

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

When will the project be completed?

Answer:

The Brisbane City Council is delivering this project and is responsible for its timelines and milestones.

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Question No.: NBII 133

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment
Topic: Bruce Highway – Vantassel Street to Flinders Highway
Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I refer to the promise made by Labor in its 5 November 2007 press release, when the then Shadow Minister for Transport, Roads and Tourism, Martin Ferguson pledged that a Rudd Government would spend \$110 million to build four lanes from Vantassel Street to the Flinders Highway, just south of Townsville.

Has the Rudd Government fulfilled this promise?

Answer:

The \$110 million in funding has been allocated under the Nation Building Program.

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Question No.: NBII 134

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment
Topic: Bruce Highway – Vantassel Street to Flinders Highway
Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

When does it intend to do so?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 133.

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Question No.: NBII 135

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment
Topic: Bruce Highway – Vantassel Street to Flinders Highway
Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

What planning has taken place?

Answer:

The Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads has undertaken preliminary planning for the project to develop options for the upgrade.

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Question No.: NBII 136

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway – Southern Approach to Cairns

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I also note in this same enthusiastic press release that the Member for Batman also pledged that a Rudd Government would provide \$150 million to upgrade the southern approach to Cairns from Sheehy Road to Ray Jones Drive and \$40 million to raise the southern approaches to Mulgrave River Bridge.

What progress has the Rudd Government made in fulfilling these promises?

Answer:

The funding of \$150 million for the upgrade of the southern approach to Cairns is allocated under the Nation Building Program; \$5.5 million is available in 2009-10 to continue planning for the project; \$5 million has previously been provided to the Queensland Government to commence planning on this project.

The funding of \$40 million to raise the southern approach to the Mulgrave River Bridge is allocated under the Nation Building Program.

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Question No.: NBII 137

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Warrego Highway

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I refer to the promise made by the Labor candidate for Maranoa on 21 November 2007 that a Rudd Labor Government would spend \$55 million to upgrade the Warrego Highway in southern Queensland. I also note that the newly elected Prime Minister on 7 December 2007 at a doorstep interview with the Minister of Agriculture, when visiting Roma, reaffirmed this promise. I quote from Mr Rudd's statement:

We are confirming our commitment to invest \$55 million for the upgrade of the Roma to Mitchell Highway to ensure that (inaudible) capable of taking type two road trains comfortably. That is the undertaking we made before the election, that's the undertaking we'll stick to after the election and I'm pleased to be able to confirm that here today.

So, it is crystal clear. Labor has committed to provide \$55 million to upgrade the Warrego Highway.

Do you accept that the Government made this promise?

Answer:

Yes.

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Question No.: NBII 138

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Warrego Highway

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

If yes, can you tell me when works will finally begin on this section of the Highway?

Answer:

Refer to the answer for NBII 17.

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Question No.: NBII 139

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Warrego Highway

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Has the funding been allocated to Main Roads Queensland and is it ready for immediate spending?

Answer:

Refer to the answer for NBII 17.

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Question No.: NBII 140

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Warrego Highway

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Where do we find provision for this money in the Budget? Can an official show me the allocation of \$55 million to fund this promise?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 17.

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Question No.: NBII 141

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Warrego Highway

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Has it been locked into the next round of the so-called Nation Building Program – the program that Australia understands is called AusLink?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 17.

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Question No.: NBII 142

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: South Road

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I refer to Labor's election promise to spend \$500 million to fix Adelaide's South Road and to create an improved North-South corridor. In a media release by Minister Albanese dated 13 May 2008 the Australian Government committed an initial \$12.6 million for planning the South Road Upgrade. When will the planning process be finished?

Answer:

Planning for the South Road upgrade will comprise up to six studies focussing on different sections of the road. The first planning study, for the northern section of South Road between the Port River Expressway and Grand Junction Road, is expected to be completed in 2010.

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Question No.: NBII 143

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: South Road

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

When will Labor actually commit \$500 million to upgrade the South Road?

Answer:

The \$500 million for the South Road Upgrade is allocated under the Nation Building Program. The Government has allocated \$41.72 million of those funds in 2009-10.

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Question No.: NBII 144

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: South Road

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Can you provide an annual funding breakdown over the forward estimates?

Answer:

Funding beyond 2009-10 will be subject to discussions between the Australian and South Australian Governments, based on the outcomes of the planning and pre-construction activities in 2009-10.

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Question No.: NBII 145

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: South Road

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I notice that in a press release dated 19 February 2009 Minister Albanese reaffirmed the Government's commitment to provide \$500 million, and I quote:

Between now and 2014 towards the construction of South Road fly-overs at the major bottlenecks at Grand Junction Road; Cormack Road and the Wingfield railway line; and Sturt Road.

This is a lot of money. Can any official show me in this Budget the allocation for the \$500 million?

Answer:

Details for the South Road Upgrade project can be found on the Nation Building Program website.

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Question No.: NBII 146

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: South Road

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Why doesn't it appear in this Budget if money is committed over the forward estimates?
When will it appear in the budget?

Answer:

Funds are generally only identified in the Budget Papers at the program level.

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Question No.: NBII 147

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

In the recent Budget, the Labor Government has committed to spend a further \$488 million over four years towards the duplication of a twelve kilometre section of the Bruce Highway between Cooroy to Curra to provide a four-lane divided highway. This is on top of the \$200 million the Labor has already promised to the Cooroy to Curra section.

Aside from a belated commitment by Labor to finally match the Coalition's promise to provide \$700 million towards the upgrade of the Cooroy to Curra section, I just wish to clarify the dispersal of these funds.

According to page 347 of Budget Paper No.2 2009-10, the Government has allocated \$468.3 million of this total in the financial year 2008-09. Is that correct? Now, given that the financial year is nearly over, how much of this money will be spent?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 42.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: NBII 148

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

If it is not spent where will this money go? To the Queensland Government account? Can an official make clear to me this process?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 42.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Question No.: NBII 149

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

How much money will be spent on the duplication of this section in the 2009-10 financial year?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 42.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: NBII 150

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I notice in your answer to a Question on Notice lodged in the February 2009 Additional Budget Estimates, you confirmed the cost of the Cooroy to Curra upgrade to be \$6.3 billion.

Can any official explain to me this extra-ordinary blow out in costs, given previous estimates such as that of the Royal Automobile Club of Queensland in its October 2008 submission to Infrastructure Australia, estimated this project would cost \$4 billion?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 19.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 151

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Now, if we set aside from the most expensive twelve kilometre stretch of road around the eastern buffer area of the proposed Traveston Crossing dam – a section that will cost at least half a billion dollars – we are left with slightly over 50 kilometres of road duplication in open country.

Can anyone explain to me why the remainder of the section should cost in the realm of five and a half billion dollars? This is after all about \$100 million per kilometre?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to NBII 19.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Budget Estimates May 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: NBII 152

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Just to confirm, the Federal Government has accepted the eastern route for the Bruce Highway between Federal and Traveston Road – that is to build the Bruce Highway around the dam's potential inundation area. Is this correct?

Answer:

Yes.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: NBII 153

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

The final version of the Federal Government's Bruce Highway (Cooroy to Curra) Strategic Planning Study was released to the public in November 2008. With regard to that report, I refer to the map contained on page seven in its introduction. This map is an explanation of the proposed routes of the Bruce Highway in the area potentially affected by the proposed Traveston Dam. This explanation reads:

*Should the dam not proceed then the location of the highway may change to an alignment close to the existing Bruce Highway as **originally favoured by the community**.*

Given that the report categorically states the route closer to the original highway is favoured by the community, how can the Government assert in its answers to Questions on Notice, and I refer to NBII 52, NBII 53, NBII55 and NBII 56, that the new route, i.e. the eastern route, is the route "favoured by the community"?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 44.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 154

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Are these answers simply incorrect?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 44.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Question No.: NBII 155

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Has the Government lied?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 44.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2009
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Question No.: NBII 156

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Given that Queensland Premier Anna Bligh has shelved the Traveston Crossing dam for many years, why has the Federal Government ignored two years of community consultation and community wishes in approving the eastern route?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 44.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: NBII 157

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

The Government has advised, in response to a Question on Notice lodged in the February 2009 Additional Budget Estimates that the Federal Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts has not been consulted about the decision to build the eastern route for the Bruce Highway around the dam's potential inundation area. When will he be consulted?

I refer to the non-answer this Committee received to its Question on Notice lodged in the February 2009 Additional Budget Estimates. The question was quite clear. I quote: *What advice did the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government receive from his Department in approving the un-popular eastern route?*

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 44.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 158

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Making a bland assertion that eastern alignment was supported by the community is not an answer. It is an untruth. What is the answer?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 44.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Question No.: NBII 159

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Given the Federal Government has confirmed the eastern route. Has the Federal Government given its approval for the Traveston Crossing dam?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 45.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: NBII 160

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

What is the cost of the shorter route that closely follows the existing Bruce Highway?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 45.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 161

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

How much extra is the taxpayer picking up as a result of the decision to build the Traveston Crossing dam?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 45.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 162

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I understand that the Queensland Government will contribute \$125 million to the duplication of the Bruce Highway from Cooroy to Curra. Is that correct?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 46.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 163

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

How was that contribution calculated?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 46.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 164

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I notice that even though the eastern route around the area of potential inundation is longer – the Government claims that cost between this route and the shorter route along the existing site of the Bruce Highway – are the same. I refer to your answer to a Question on Notice lodged by this Committee after the February hearings. I quote Question No. NBII 58:

Indicative estimates provided by the Queensland Department of Main Roads show that the costs would be similar, subject to delivery and construction schedules.

Can anyone explain to me how a longer route can be the same cost as a shorter route? Is the topography that different?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 47.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: NBII 165

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Pages: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Do you have the respective cost estimates provided by the Queensland Government?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 47.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Question No.: NBII 166

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Will you provide them to this Committee?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 47.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Question No.: NBII 167

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

What is the basis for the answer to Question on Notice NBII 58?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 47.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2009
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Question No.: NBII 168

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Given that the Government has confirmed that this duplication will cost over six billion dollars and given Labor has promised slightly over two billion dollars, has the Queensland Government agreed to make up the four billion dollar shortfall?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 48.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 169

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

How are negotiations proceeding with the Queensland Government to make up for this funding gap?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 48.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Question No.: NBII 170

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway Funding Arrangements

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

What funding arrangements regarding the upgrade of the Bruce Highway have been established between the Commonwealth and the Queensland Government?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 48.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 171

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

What is the expected completion date of duplicating the Bruce Highway around the expected site of the Traveston Crossing dam?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 49.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 172

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cooroy to Curra

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

What about duplicating the Bruce Highway from Cooroy to Curra?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 49.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 173

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway Funding Arrangements

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I further notice that elsewhere that Labor promised to spend **\$2.2 billion on a better Bruce Highway**, delivered under Auslink 2 from 2009 to 2014. Now, this \$2.2 billion includes the nearly \$700 million on the Cooroy to Curra does it not?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 50.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 174

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway Funding Arrangements

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

So, how will Labor spend the balance of this money on the remainder of the Bruce Highway?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 50.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 175

Division/Agency: Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway Funding Arrangements

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

On what sections of the Bruce Highway?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 50.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 176

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway Funding Arrangements

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

When?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 50.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Question No.: NBII 177

Division/Agency: Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Dawson / Bruce Highway Southern Approach to Mackay

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

In the election campaign, Labor in its press release dated 6 November 2007, pledged to spend \$150 million in the Seat of Dawson on the Bruce Highway. Well, I would be interested to know as to the success the new Member for Dawson has had in ensuring the delivery of these promises.

So, as part of that, Labor promised \$50 million to duplicate the Bruce Highway and improve sections on the 3.5 kilometre stretch south of Mackay.

How is the implementation of that promise going?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 51.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 178

Division/Agency: Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Dawson / Bruce Highway Southern Approach to Mackay

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

When will that duplication be complete?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 51.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 179

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - North Of Brandon

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Labor promised \$50 million to flood-mitigate the Bruce Highway north of Brandon. Has that promise been implemented?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 52.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 180

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - North Of Brandon

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

When will Labor fulfil this promise?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 52.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 181

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment
Topic: Bruce Highway - Cabbage Tree Creek To Carman Road
Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

The Labor Party promised, on 7 November 2007, that it would spend \$100 million to fix a dangerous section of the Bruce Highway between Miriam Vale and Gin Gin. Specifically, this would involve fixing a 7.9 kilometre stretch from Cabbage Tree Creek to Carman Road and 3.6 kilometres around Back Creek Range. Has the Rudd Government carried out its promise to fix these sections of the Bruce Highway?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 53.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 182

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Cabbage Tree Creek to Carman Road

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

When will it do so?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 53.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 183

Division/Agency: Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Rest Areas – Childers to Sarina

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Labor also promised \$20 million for more rest areas on the Bruce Highway between Sarina and Childers – north of Brisbane and south of Mackay - in its press release of 6 November 2007. Have they been built yet?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 54.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 184

Division/Agency: Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Rest Areas – Childers to Sarina

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

When will they be built?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 54.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 185

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Rest Areas – Childers to Sarina

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Will that \$20 million come out of the Government's \$70 million Heavy Vehicle Safety Package?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 54.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 186

Division/Agency: Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Black Spots – Childers to Sarina

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I note in the same press release Labor promised \$115 million for black spots between Sarina and Childers. Where is the money and where will they be built?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 20.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 187

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment
Topic: Bruce Highway - Overtaking Lanes Childers To Sarina
Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

In fact, Labor made quite a lot of promises in its media release of 6 November 2007. Has the Rudd Government provided the \$65 million it promised on new overtaking lanes between Childers and Sarina?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 56.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 188

Division/Agency: Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment
Topic: Bruce Highway - Overtaking Lanes Childers to Sarina
Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

When will Labor fulfil these promises?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 56.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No. NBII 189

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Strengthening and Widening Rockhampton

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Has the Government spent the \$70 million it promised to widen and strengthen sections of narrow and broken highway between Benaraby and Rockhampton and Rockhampton to St. Lawrence?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 21.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 190

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Strengthening and Widening Rockhampton

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

When will the Government meet this promise?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 21.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 191

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Calliope Crossroads

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I notice that on 4 November 2007 the Labor Party promised to provide up to \$55 million to upgrade the Bruce Highway for the Calliope Crossroads near Gladstone.

What stage is the Government up to in fulfilling this promise?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 22.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 192

Division/Agency: Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Gairloch Flood Immunity

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

In its media releases of 4 October and 5 November 2008 Labor promised \$40 million to improve flood immunity on the Bruce Highway at Gairloch, north of Ingham. Has Labor fulfilled this promise?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 22.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 193

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Bruce Highway - Gairloch Flood Immunity

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

When will it do so?

Answer:

Refer to the answer to question NBII 22.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 194

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Peninsula Development Road

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Labor promised on 22 November 2007 that it would provide \$15 million to seal the final 15km of the Peninsula Development Road between Lakeland and Laura and improve five to ten creek crossings north of Laura, in order to provide all-weather access. I notice in the Department website that a construction timetable for the sealing works will be determined when planning is further advanced.

Is planning further advanced?

Answer:

Yes, planning is further advanced and five sections of the Peninsula Development Road have been identified as projects for road upgrading, as follows:

- Lakeland Dump to Lily Creek;
- Carols Crossing and Approaches;
- Ruth Creek Bridge and Approaches;
- Crocodile Gap to Hells Gate Creek; and
- Laura River and Approaches.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 195

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Peninsula Development Road

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

When will the sealing works be completed?

Answer:

2013 (weather permitting).

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Question No.: NBII 196

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Geelong Ring Road

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

According to its media release of 21 November 2007, Labor promised \$107.5 million to complete the Geelong Ring Road to the Princes Highway West near Waurin Ponds.

I notice that the departmental website states that: *Section 4A of the project involves extending the Geelong Ring Road over the existing Princes Highway West and along Anglesea Road, terminating near Hams Road.*

The website further elaborates and claims: *this project is jointly funded with the Australian Government contributing \$62.5 million with the Victorian Government contributing the balance.*

Is Section 4A of the project the same project as referred to in Labor's November 2007 media release?

Answer:

Yes.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 197

Division/Agency: Nation Building – Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Geelong Ring Road

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

If yes, does this mean the Federal Government is not committing the funds to this project it promised – that is – it is providing \$62.5 million rather than \$107.5 million?

Answer:

The Australian Government is contributing \$107.5 million towards the Geelong Ring Road. \$62.5 million has been committed to Stage 4A and \$45 million has been committed to Stage 4B for a combined total of \$107.5 million.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
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Question No.: NBII 198

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Geelong Ring Road

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Can anyone explain this discrepancy?

Answer:

Refer to NBII 197.

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Question No.: NBII 199

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment

Topic: Geelong Ring Road

Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

If no, when will the final stage be built? At what cost? What payment arrangements are in place?

Answer:

Not applicable. See response to NBII 197

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2009
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question No.: NBII 200

Division/Agency: Nation Building Infrastructure Investment
Topic: Princes Highway West/Geelong Ring Road
Hansard Page/s: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

I am also curious regarding what exactly Labor promised regarding the Princes Highway. I refer to a report in the *Herald Sun*, p.13, dated Thursday 22 November 2007, where the then Shadow Transport Minister Martin Ferguson MP, promised \$220 million to turn the Princes Highway West from Waurin Ponds to Winchelsea into a dual carriageway of which the Federal Government would fund half.

Now, is this promise different from Labor's promise, made on 21 November 2007, to provide \$107.5 million to complete the Geelong Ring Road to the Princes Highway near Waurin Ponds?

Answer:

The Australian Government is meeting both commitments.

1) Geelong Ring Road:

- i. Stage 4A – total project cost: \$125 million.
Australian Government contribution: \$62.5 million.
- ii. Stage 4B – total project cost: \$110 million.
Australian Government contribution: \$45 million.

2) Princes Highway West – Waurin Ponds to Winchelsea – total project cost: \$220 million.
Australian Government contribution: \$110 million.