

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Estimates October 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AUSL 01

Division/Agency: AusLink

Topic: Road Funding

Hansard Pages: 27-28 (30/10/06)

Senator Ian MacDonald asked:

Ms Riggs—This first five years of AusLink is a transitional period. It is probably fair to reflect on the fact that, in those States, for example, where a number of former roads of national importance are now part of the national network, the negotiations between Governments in settling just precisely where Australian Government moneys would be invested in this five-year period probably met with a greater share of willingness on the part of the State Governments also to contribute to national network projects. There was less of that.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Can you demonstrate that for me in facts and figures—not now, but perhaps on notice?

Answer:

The first five year AusLink Investment Programme (2004-05 to 2008-09) includes continuing projects from the former National Highways and Roads of National Importance Programme, which ended on 30 June 2004, and new AusLink projects announced either in the AusLink White Paper (June 2004) or subsequently.

The attached table sets out new AusLink projects for which there are shared funding arrangements. The Australian Government's contribution is limited to a percentage share and/or capped dollar amount in each case. Where the project is on the former National Highway, this is noted in the Comment/Conditions column. Prior to AusLink, National Highway projects were funded almost entirely by the Australian Government.

Based on their share of the total cost estimate column in the table, and also taking account of \$160 million New South Wales is providing to the Pacific Highway under a separate Memorandum of Understanding, States and Territories are required to contribute nearly \$2.1 billion to the projects listed. In the event of cost increases this figure will increase. This figure does not include any contribution New South Wales may be required to make to the F3 to Sydney Orbital project, as private sector funding will be sought for this project.

States are also funding several projects on the AusLink Network themselves. These include: Queensland funding the cost to Government of the Gateway Upgrade project, South Australia funding works on South Road (\$122 million commitment) and New South Wales funding works on the Great Western Highway (\$360 million commitment).

[AUSL 01 attachment]

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Question: AUSL 02

Division/Agency: AusLink

Topic: Maintenance of National Highways

Hansard Pages: 30-31 (30/10/06)

Senator Ian Macdonald asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Can you identify for me what AusLink road projects there have been in the south-east Queensland area in 2005-06 and 2006-07?

CHAIR—Do you want to come back with the answer?

Mr Elliott—It might be easier, I think, yes.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—I am happy enough for you even to take it on notice, because I would like the projects identified. I am talking about capital works.

Senator O'BRIEN—But that is identified in an answer to a question on notice now, isn't it? That is what you are referring to, Mr Elliott?

Ms Riggs—It is possible to answer this question from—

Mr Elliott—It can be extracted from the table that we have given you.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Can you extract it for me for south-east Queensland?

Mr Elliott—Certainly.

Answer:

A table setting out AusLink road investment projects in the south-east Queensland area for 2005-06 and 2006-07 is at **Attachment A**.

[AUSL 02 attachment]

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Question: AUSL 03

Division/Agency: AusLink

Topic: State and Territories MOUs

Hansard Page: 25 (30/11/2006)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—So whatever is contained in this document, for example in relation to the Hume Highway, would have to have added to it the expenditure announced in the budget?

Mr Hogan—That is right.

Ms Riggs—Yes.

Ms Page—We can supply you with the table that breaks up those funds, which I think might be the easiest way to do it. As Ms Riggs says, because they are lump sum payments, they are not spread across the profile of a project in a normal way, but we can give you a table which breaks up the allocations to each state if that would assist.

Senator O'BRIEN—It certainly would assist if this document can be added to, so we have a complete picture; yes.

Ms Page—Yes.

Answer:

The following table sets out the works being funded from the \$1,820.01m provided in the 2005-06 Supplementary Additional Estimates to accelerate the upgrading of various AusLink National Network highways. The funding was paid to the various jurisdictions in June 2006.

	\$m
New South Wales	
Accelerated Southern Hume Duplication Package	800.00
Accelerated Pacific Highway Duplication and Safety Works Package	160.00
Queensland	
Accelerated Bruce Highway Upgrade Package	220.00
Accelerated Bruce Highway Upgrade - Corduroy Creek to Tully High School improvements ¹	127.01
Western Australia	
Accelerated Upgrade Package - Great Eastern Highway	14.00
Accelerated Upgrade Package - Great Northern and Victoria Highways	234.00
Accelerated Upgrade Package - Eyre Highway	75.00
South Australia	
Accelerated Sturt Highway Upgrade Package	100.00
Tasmania	
Accelerated East Tamar Highway Upgrade Package	60.00

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Northern Territory	
Accelerated Victoria Highway Package	30.00
TOTAL	1,820.01

Funding for Corduroy Creek to Tully High School improvements includes \$79.01 million transferred from the AusLink Investment Programme.